COME JOIN US!!

RECRUITMENT OPEN FOR ALL POSITIONS.
EXPERIENCE APPRECIATED BUT NOT REQUIRED.
JAP>ENG TRANSLATORS ESPECIALLY NEEDED.

WE'RE CAPSLOCK FRIENDLY :D

おおきく振りかぶって

ひぐちアサ
HIGUCHI ASA

アフタヌーンKC

CHARACTER PROFILE

(1)Name (2)Birthday (3)Blood type (4)Height and weight (5)Defensive position (6)Throwing arm/batting arm (7)School year/class (8)Family members

SHOJI SUYAMA

①巣山尚治
(Suyama Shouji)
②April 6
③A
④175cm 64kg
⑤Shortstop / third base
⑥R / R
⑦1st year, class 1
⑧Grandmother father mother older brother younger brother

KAZUTOSHI OKI

①沖 一利
(Oki Kazutoshi)
②July 20
③A
④172cm 60kg
⑤First base
⑥L / L
⑦1st year, class 3
⑧Grandfather grandmother father mother older sister

CHARACTER PROFILE

(1)Name (2)Birthday (3)Blood type (4)Height and weight
(5)Defensive position (6)Throwing arm/batting arm
(7)School year/class (8)Family members

NAOTO KAGUYAMA

①加具山直人
(Kaguyama Naoto)
②January 3
③A
④170cm 62kg
⑤Pitcher
⑥R / R
⑦2nd year, class C
⑧Grandmother father mother
older brother younger sister

MOTOKI HARUNA

①春名元希
(Haruna Motoki)
②May 24
③AB
④182cm 75kg
⑤Pitcher
⑥L / L
⑦2nd year, class B
⑧Father mother
older sister

KYOHEI AKIMARU

①秋丸恭平
(Akimaru Kyouhei)
②March 12
③O
④176cm 67kg
⑤Catcher
⑥R / R
⑦2nd year, class A
⑧Father mother
two older sisters

Cover Design ARTEN

アフタヌーン
KC368

おおきく振りかぶって ③

ひぐちアサ

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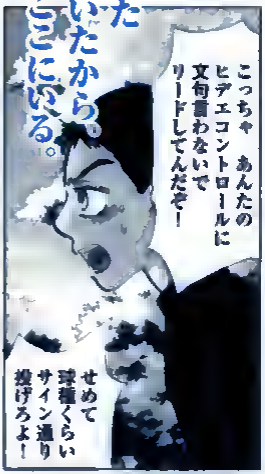
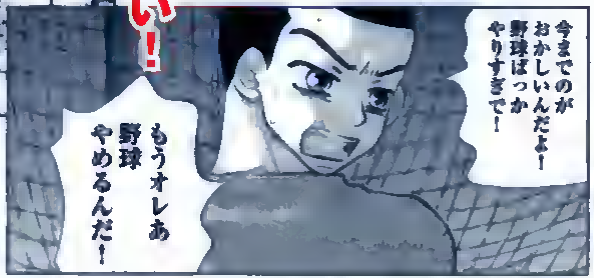
報われなかった
昔の自分がいたから、
ここにいる。



昔、投げたボールを
受けとめてくれたのは今のチーム。

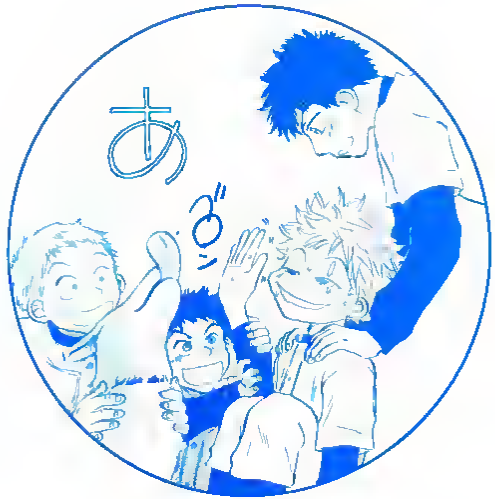
このチームで勝ちたい、
ずっと野球をしていたい!



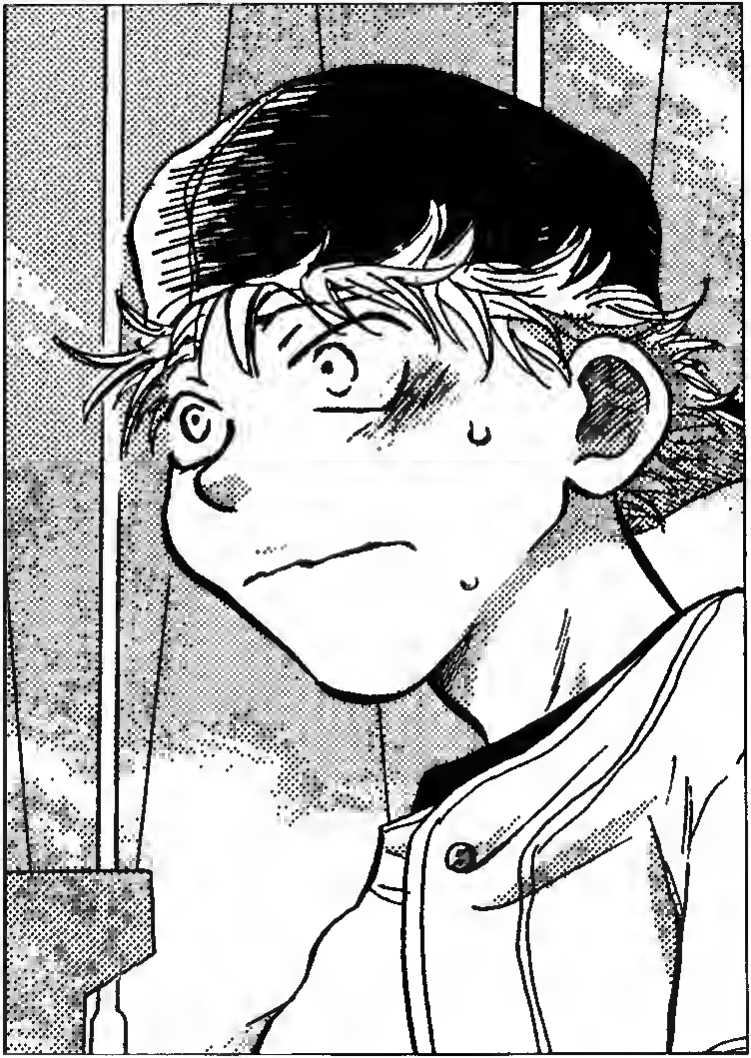
野球経験者が唸る臨場感。
青春と人間の素晴らしさを
正面からたたえる熱さ、さわやかさ。
野球に興味がなくても夢中になれる、
面白さ絶対保証の高校野球漫画!

おおきく振りかぶって Vol.3　ひぐちアサ

アフタヌーンKC　講談社



おおきく振りかぶって Vol.3　　ひぐちアサ



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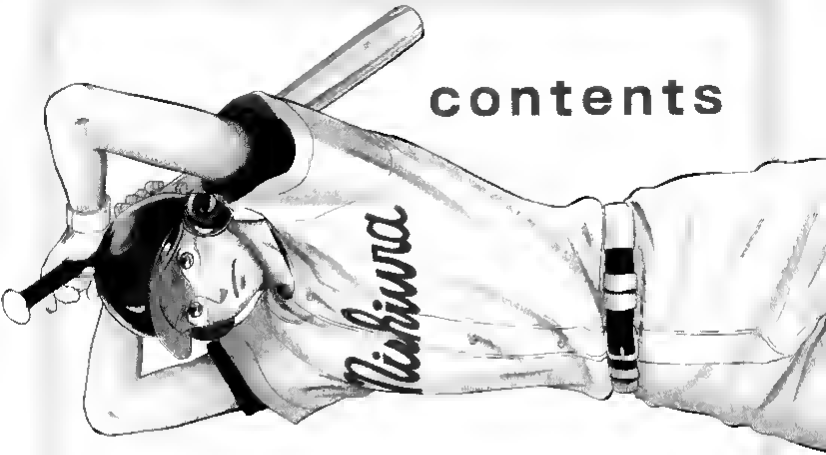


Ch. 7 – An Awesome Pitcher (1) p3

Ch. 8 – An Awesome Pitcher (2) p51

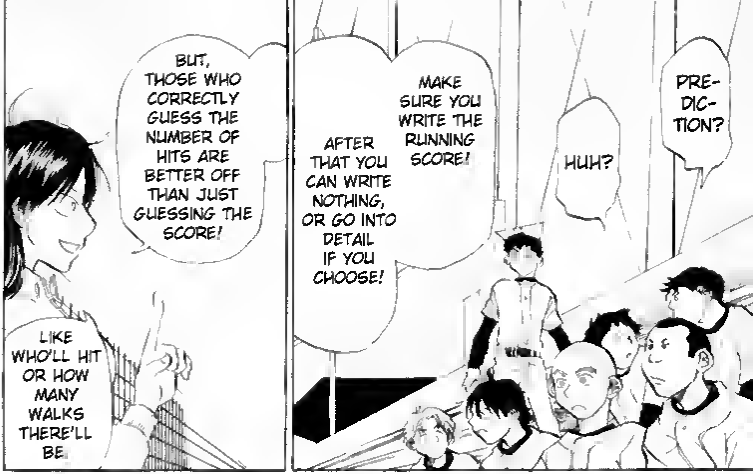
Ch. 9 – Steadily p117

Extra – The Basic of Basics p169

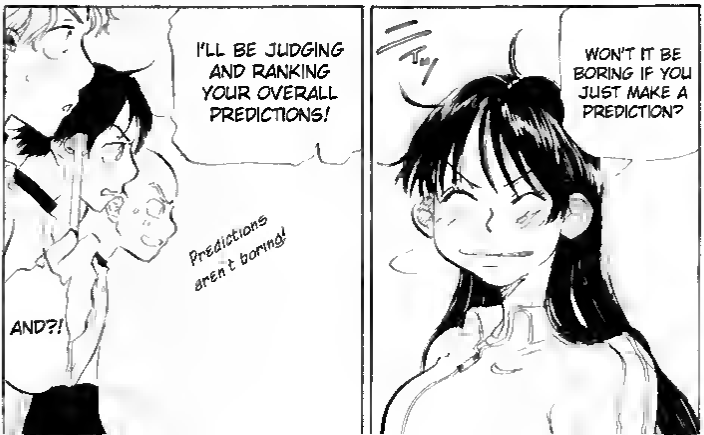
*Stands for "Little Seniors". It is an organization similar to Little League

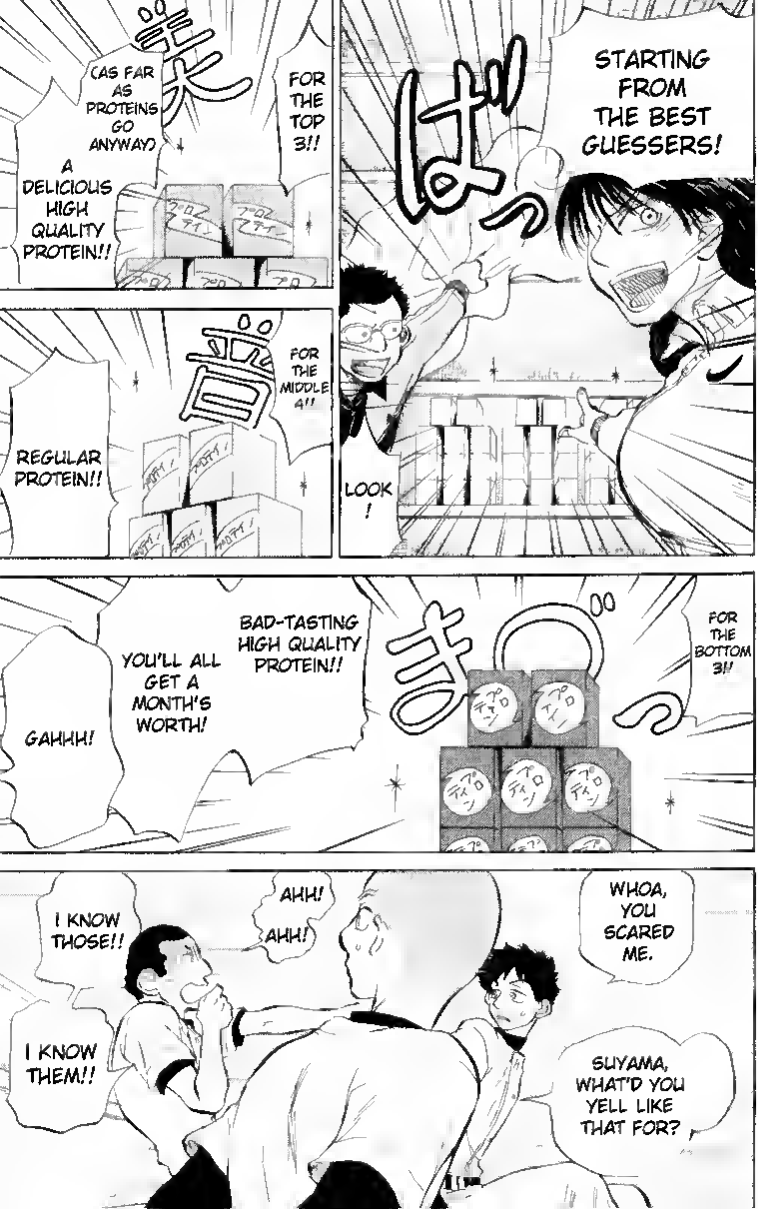
CHAPTER 7 An AWESOME PITCHER (1)

IS THERE ANYONE WHO DOESN'T KNOW THIS IS A BASE-BALL SCORE-CARD?
...
WE'RE OK!
OH
just t-toss it!
yank
A scorecard, huh?
We're receiving t-trash?
flip
PUT THE DATE, THE TEAM NAMES FOR MUSASHINO AND URAWA-SOUGOU,
AND THE NAMES OF THE PLAYERS
WATCH CAREFULLY UNTIL THE THIRD INNING.
Wanna see?
Oh!
Ah!
THEN ANALYZE THE DATA ON YOUR OWN.
An "X"?
PUT AN "X" UP THROUGH THE THIRD INNING
THEN YOU'LL MAKE A PREDICTION FOR THE GAME RESULTS STARTING FROM THE FOURTH INNING!


BUT, THOSE WHO CORRECTLY GUESS THE NUMBER OF HITS ARE BETTER OFF THAN JUST GUESSING THE SCORE!
LIKE WHO'LL HIT OR HOW MANY WALKS THERE'LL BE.
MAKE SURE YOU WRITE THE RUNNING SCORE!
AFTER THAT YOU CAN WRITE NOTHING, OR GO INTO DETAIL IF YOU CHOOSE!
HUH?
PRE-DIC-TION?

...UM, WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "POINTS"...?
TACTICS WILL GET YOU A LOT OF POINTS!
GUESSING CORRECTLY IF A SQUEEZE PLAY IS INCLUDED IN THE COACH'S


I'LL BE JUDGING AND RANKING YOUR OVERALL PREDICTIONS!
Predictions aren't boring!
AND?!
WON'T IT BE BORING IF YOU JUST MAKE A PREDICTION?

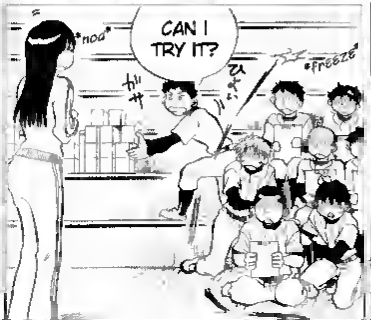

STARTING FROM THE BEST GUESSERS!
LOOK!
FOR THE MIDDLE 4!!
REGULAR PROTEIN!!
FOR THE TOP 3!!
(AS FAR AS PROTEINS GO ANYWAY)
A DELICIOUS HIGH QUALITY PROTEIN!!
FOR THE BOTTOM 3!!
BAD-TASTING HIGH QUALITY PROTEIN!!
YOU'LL ALL GET A MONTH'S WORTH!
GAHHH!
WHOA, YOU SCARED ME.
SUYAMA, WHAT'D YOU YELL LIKE THAT FOR?
AHH!
AHH!
I KNOW THOSE!!
I KNOW THEM!!

CA-
CALM DOWN!
T-THE NORMALLY CALM SUYAMA IS...
Please forgive me!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO EAT WHAT YOU GET...

COACH!! I'M SORRY FOR THIS BUT...
I SWORE TO GOD THAT I WOULDN'T EAT THIS AGAIN!
ぱっ

TIMING YOUR PROTEIN INTAKE WELL WILL HELP THE TIMING OF YOUR GROWTH HORMONES,
OF COURSE!

UH,
OR SO THEY SAY!
TAKE BEFORE EXERCISE! DURING EXERCISE! AND AFTER EXERCISE! AND 30 MINUTES BEFORE BEDTIME!
small voice
I know, but!
"DURING EXERCISE" MEANS...
SHE'S LIKE SHIGAPO...


CAN I TRY IT?
nod
freeze

DURING PRACTICE,
YOU MUST EAT IT!

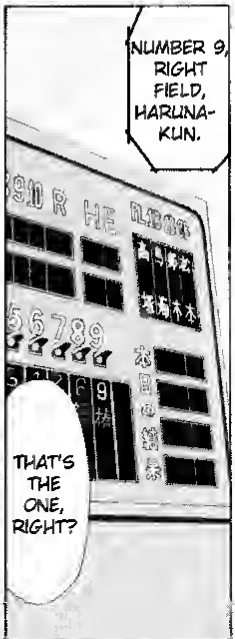
BLECHHH!
HERE GOES...
CRUNCH
GULP
GOOD BOY
YOU'LL WASTE IT.
SWALLOW PLEASE
NNN
MMF MMF
sfx: exhausted
sfx: struggling sounds
I ONLY BROUGHT ENOUGH FOR TEN.
I WISH THERE WERE ENOUGH FOR ELEVEN
I...
twitching
It's hopeless...
CO...
COACH ISN'T TAKING PART IN THIS.
SNEAKY!
Tajima's down!!
SYMA...
HAS LOST IT.
...ted!

IT'S NOT IN THE BUDGET ...
Ahh
sfx snap
MOMOKAN ...
Ah!
USED HER OWN MONEY!!
NUMBER 6, PITCHER, KAGU-YAMA-KUN
MORE OF THE "NORMAL" FLAVOR WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER.
IT'S CHEAP
I CAN'T SAY ANY-THING ...
THAT'S ... LIKE ...
OHH, LOOK!
um
.....
sfx BA BA
!!
WE HAVE TO WATCH THE DEFENSIVE WARM-UP!
WHAT- YAMA-KUN?

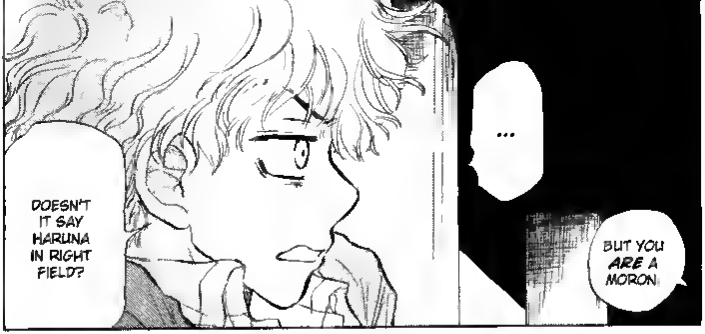
AOI ...
IS THAT THE NAME OF THE GUY?
AGUYAMA?
HAGUYAMA?
WE SCORED TWO RUNS OFF OF KAGU-YAMA.
すぽっ
THAT'S NOT HIM.
にゃ
WHEN WE PLAYED AGAINST THEM IN THE FALL, [redacted] WAS THE FIRST PITCHER.
HE WAS RELIEVED IN THE FOURTH INNING.

WE DIDN'T GET A SINGLE HIT OFF OF HARUNA.
ENDED UP LOSING 3-2.

CAN YOU READ THOSE LET-TERS?
HEY, RIO,
CHECK OUT THE SCORE-BOARD.


NUMBER 9, RIGHT FIELD, HARUNA-KUN.
THAT'S THE ONE, RIGHT?

YOU THINK I'M A COMPLETE MORON, DON'T YOU?
... COME ON, JUN-SAN.


DOESN'T IT SAY HARUNA IN RIGHT FIELD?
...
BUT YOU ARE A MORON.

SFX: goroh
I WANTED TO GO STRAIGHT TO PRAC-TICE,
おおおおお
BUT EVERYONE WAS SAYING "HARUNA THIS" AND "HARUNA THAT", SO WE HAD TO COME SEE HIM PITCH.
SILLY, DON'T SLEEP NOW!
YOU CAN'T JUST BLOW THIS OFF.
IF HARUNA'S NOT PITCHING, I'LL JUST TAKE A NAP.
ゆらり
I'M NOT BLOWING IT OFF.
SOONER OR LATER YOU'LL HAVE TO...

SFX: ○○○○○○
SO I'M GOING TO SLEEP TO PREPARE FOR TOMOR-ROW'S GAME!!
BUT HARUNA'S NOT EVEN PITCHING,

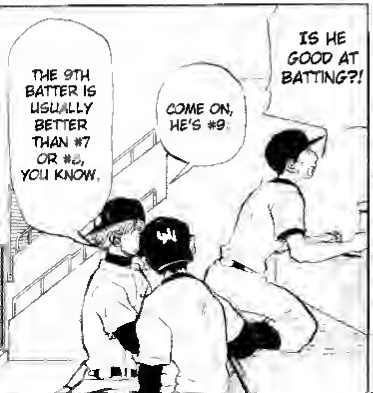
SFX goron
I'M ON THE BENCH SO YOU CAN NEVER TELL.
offended
TOMORROW'S THE QUARTER-FINALS
ゴロン
Hey. I'm a 3rd year you know
FIRST YEARS AREN'T PLAYING
FOR INSTANCE, KAZU-SAN MIGHT GET HIT BY A CAR THIS AFTERNOON.
YOU'RE SAYING SOME NASTY THINGS, YOU KNOW.
Kazuki-senpai
LAST ONE, LET'S GO!
OK.
.....
SFX goso
I APOLOGIZE, GRANDMOTHER PLEASE ASK GOD TO FORGIVE ME FOR THE THINGS I'VE SAID
SUCH A BAD GUY.
HE'S NOT
I GUESS
We can hear you

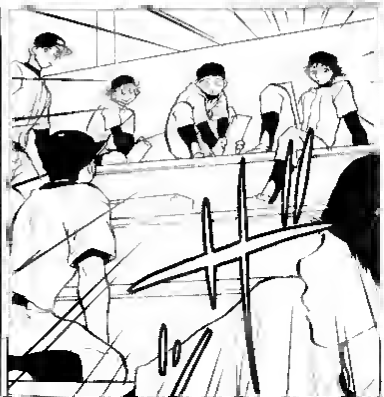
MUSASHINO USED TO BE A NO-NAME SCHOOL IN BASEBALL, BUT THANKS TO HIM THEY SUDDENLY ROSE IN RANK LAST AUTUMN

DIDN'T ABE-KUN TALK TO THAT RIGHT FIELDER BEFORE?
SO THAT'S HARUNA-KUN!

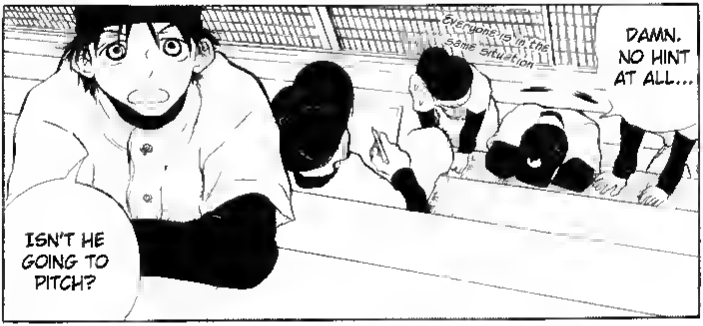
I OVER-LOOKED THE AUTUMN GAMES.
JUST WHAT KIND OF PITCHER IS HE?

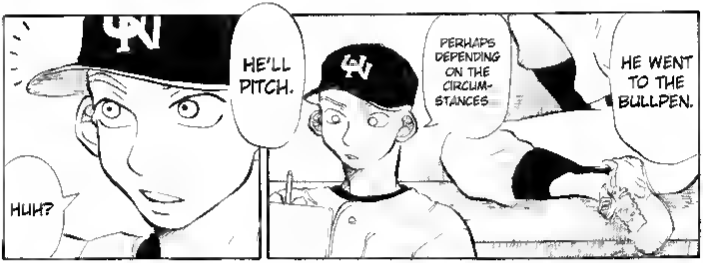
ABE!
YOU TALKED TO THAT RIGHT FIELDER EARLIER, DIDN'T YOU?


IS HE GOOD AT BATTING?!
COME ON, HE'S #9.
THE 9TH BATTER IS USUALLY BETTER THAN #7 OR #8, YOU KNOW.



HIS BATTING USED TO BE PRETTY WILD, BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW IT IS NOW.
I ONLY WATCHED HIM PLAY FOR A YEAR.
CAN HE HIT WELL?
REALLY?
YEAH


Everyone is in the same situation
DAMN. NO HINT AT ALL...
ISN'T HE GOING TO PITCH?


HUH?
HE'LL PITCH.
PERHAPS DEPENDING ON THE CIRCUM-STANCES
HE WENT TO THE BULLPEN.

HE'S GOING TO START PITCHING IN THE 4TH INNING.

WHY THE 4TH INNING?
HE SAID SO HIMSELF.
HOW DO YOU KNOW?
AFTER HE'S THROWN THE LIMIT, HE STEPS OFF THE MOUND.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "STRICT"?
BECAUSE OF A STRICT, SELF-IMPOSED PITCH COUNT LIMIT.
NO MATTER WHAT.
HUH? NO MATTER WHAT?
IN THE SENIORS, HIS LIMIT WAS 80.
IT LOOKS LIKE IT HASN'T CHANGED.
WOULD END WITH JUST ONE MORE PITCH?
EVEN IF THE GAME

EVEN IF THE SCORE WAS 2-3 AND THE BASES WERE LOADED,
OR IF HE ONLY HAD TO THROW ONE LAST INTEN-TIONAL BALL,
HE WOULD STILL STEP OFF THE MOUND.
HE'S THAT KIND OF GUY!
SFX: doki doki

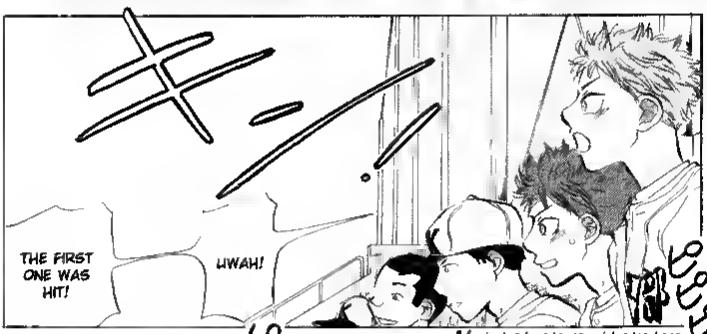
I hate pitchers
who shake their heads at me!
SFX: doki

BUT IT'S AMAZI NG...
THAT THEY LET HIM DO THAT!

WHAT'S THAT SUP-POSED TO MEAN!

SO HE'S REALLY...
SUCH A GOOD PITCHER?

HE'S FAST
スッ
キ
IT'S STARTING!
!
WHA-
ぬ
あ
PLAY!
I'M GET-TING FIRED UP!



*A win due to a large point advantage

ONE GAME CALLED AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL
IN THE PREFECTUAL GAMES, THEY WON 5-3 AND 4-2
WHAT ABOUT MUSASHINO?
SO FAR, THEY'VE HAD 3 GAMES CALLED*
URASOU HAS BEEN GETTING A LOT OF HITS THIS YEAR!
1ST

I WONDER IF HARUNA LACKS STAMINA OR SOMETHING.
KAGUYAMA ISN'T THAT BAD,
BUT WOULDN'T THEY GET AN EASIER WIN IF HARUNA PITCHED FROM THE START?
SHI-BA-SEN-PAI,
WHY DO YOU THINK IT'S LIKE THAT?
ピピーッ
ピルルルルル
ピピーッ
ピピーッ
ピピーッ
IF HE CAN PITCH, HE SHOULD.
YOU MEAN...?
...NO IDEA.
BUT...
EACH YEAR, THE BEST 16 IS A MIX OF ALL KINDS OF SCHOOLS
PRIVATE AND PUBLIC, VETERANS AND NEWCOMERS.
CLUBS WITH A TOTAL OF 9 MEMBERS
AND CLUBS LIKE OURS, WHERE THE MEMBER COUNT EXCEEDS 100.
おおおお

SO MUSASHINO IS GOING TO LOSE?
HOWEVER, IF YOU LOOK AT THE BEST 8,
URAWA SOKO
WHY DO YOU THINK SO?
THE LEVELS ARE ALMOST EVEN
LET'S SEE...
ALL I CAN SAY
IS THAT YOU CAN'T HAVE A GOOD GAME WHILE HOLDING BACK

HH
OUT!
UWAH, DOUBLE PLAY!
I WANNA SEE THE FASTBA-
AH!
HURRY UP! ISN'T HARUNA GOING TO PITCH?
YEAH!
UIRASOU GOES FOR HITS RATHER THAN SQUEEZE PLAYS
STILL SCORED A POINT WITH 3 HITS IN JUST THIS INNING
BUT THEY

HE'LL BE THROWING IN THE BULLPEN!
IT'S HARUNA!
HEY, HEY
STOP IT, THEY'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF AN OFFICIAL GAME!
HUH?
10

THWAP
SWISH..
武蔵野
FWOOSH
THUD
NICE BALL!

フラ
HE'S THROWING LIGHTLY,
BUT THAT SOUND

IT'S SIMPLE CATCH-BALL, AND YET..
フラ

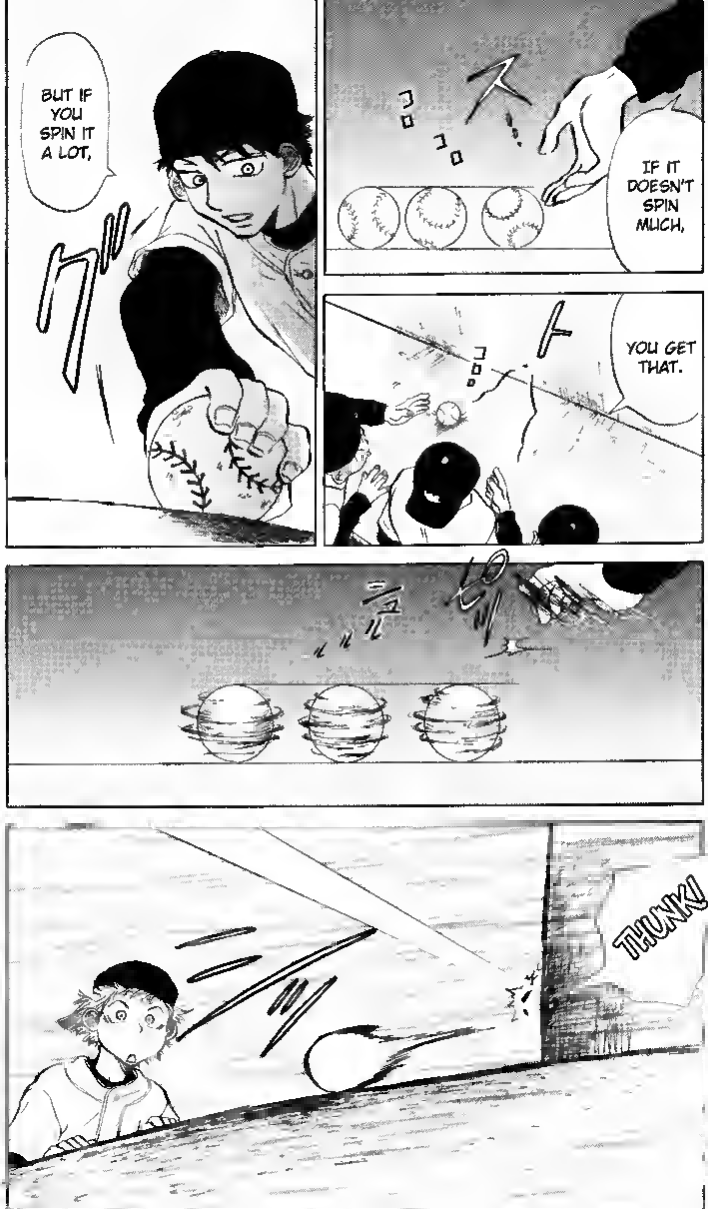
MIHASHI
ビュッ

BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, IF YOU ADD A BACKSPIN TO THE BALL,

THAT IS A STRAIGHT PITCH.
...UH.

EVEN A RELATIVELY SLOW PITCH...
WILL MAKE A SHARP SOUND.

nod
H-
HA-
HARDER TO HIT.
A-
A GOOD PITCH
FASTBALLS ARE PRAISED SO MUCH BECAUSE
IT'S THOUGHT THAT PITCHES THAT DON'T FALL MUCH ARE HARDER TO HIT.
BUT PITCHES WITH HIGH REVOLUTION
...ARE REALLY THE ONES THAT FLY FURTHER WHEN HIT.
AH,
UMM
YOU HAVE A BALL RIGHT NOW?
GIVE IT TO ME FOR A SEC
EH
N-
NO WAY
WH-WHA
IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, IT'S TRUE.
OH!
HERE
WOW!
YOU ALWAYS HAVE THAT?!
TAKE A LOOK.
What?


BUT IF YOU SPIN IT A LOT,
IF IT DOESN'T SPIN MUCH,
YOU GET THAT.
THUNK

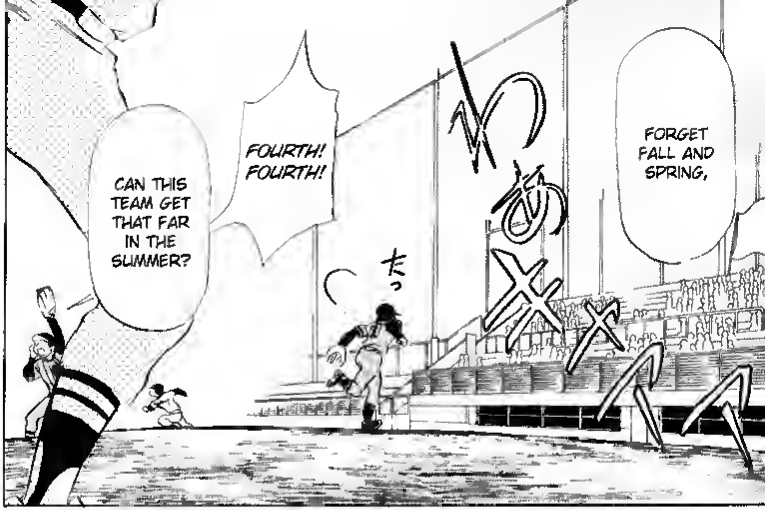
BALLS PITCHED WITH A LOT OF SPIN GO FAR WHEN HIT.
!!
SEE?
!
AH...
YOU DON'T WIN IN BASEBALL WITH SPEED OR REVOLUTIONS,
YOU WIN BY SCORING RUNS.
MY PITCHES ARE...
OH,
SO...
roll...
roll...
WELL,
THERE ARE SOME OTHER FACTORS, BUT...
...DON'T GO FAR!
ONES THAT ...

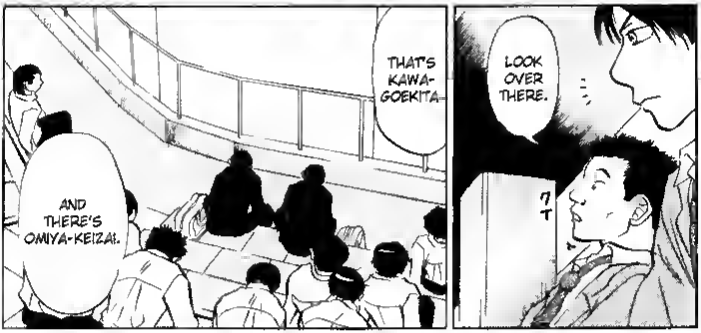
THAT'S
TRUE,
BUT...
nod
YEAH
FWSH
M
武蔵野

IF YOU ASKED 100 PEOPLE...
THEY'D ALL PICK HARUNA-SAN OVER ME...
NICE BALL!
AH...
STRIKE!
THE PITCHER WHO SHAKES HIS HEAD, THE ONE ABE-KUN HATES..
IT'S HARUNA-SAN
I DON'T REALLY GET IT, BUT..
THAT HURTS!
SHUCHU
STOP PUNCHING ME!

EVERYTHING ABE-KUN IS NOW...
IS BECAUSE OF...
...HARUNA-SAN!!
LOOK, THEY'VE TAKEN THE LEAD
IT'S NO USE WITH KAGUYAMA!
THEY SHOULD SEND IN THE RELIEF BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE...
TOMORROW WE'RE AT THE NEIGHBORING STADIUM.
IF MUSASHINO WINS, WE WERE GONNA GO WATCH THEIR GAME AFTER OURS.
IS THAT SO?
THIS IS THE END FOR MUSASHINO...
WELL, ACCORDING TO COACH,

I SEE.
SO SINCE THEY MIGHT NOT BE HERE TOMORROW, THEY SENT US TODAY?
RIGHT.
TO PREPARE FOR THE SUMMER.
...
SNORE
ARE THEY ALL THAT GOOD?
HUH?
YOU DON'T KNOW WHO YOU'RE GOING TO PLAY AGAINST IN THE SUMMER TOURNAMENT,
BUT BOTH OUR TEAMS ARE SEEDED SO IT CAN'T BE VERY SOON.
LET'S SEE...
THE EARLIEST WOULD BE THE 5TH ROUND.


FORGET FALL AND SPRING,
FOURTH! FOURTH!
CAN THIS TEAM GET THAT FAR IN THE SUMMER?
たっ

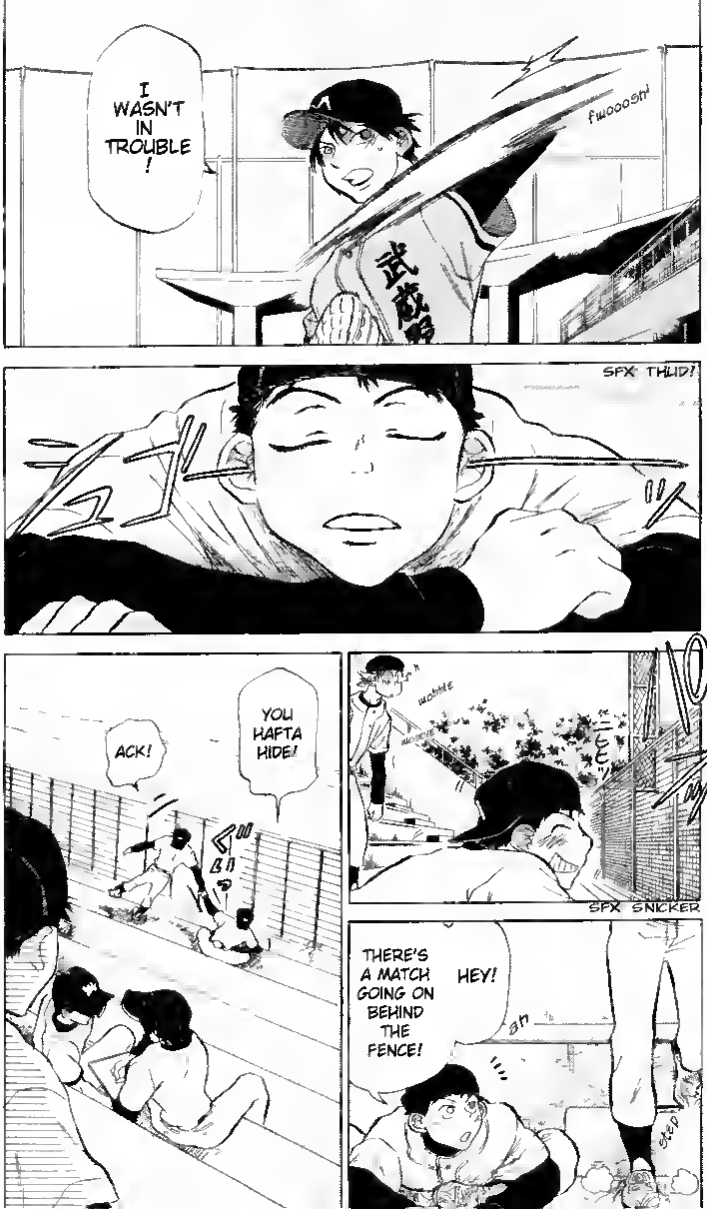

LOOK OVER THERE.
ﾌﾄ
THAT'S KAWA-GOEKITA-
AND THERE'S OMIYA-KEIZAI.

TOKO-ROZAWA SOUTH ...
AND AGEO-ICHI.
AND SOME OTHERS, TOO.
THE OLD GUYS FILMING ARE FROM PRIVATE GROUPS.

I THINK HARUNA'S OVERRATED,
I SEE.
BUT, IT'S THE TRUTH THAT HE'S STILL GOOD ENOUGH TO GATHER ALL THESE PEOPLE.
THERE MIGHT EVEN BE SOME PRO SCOUTS.
PRO SCOUTS ...?!
BUT YOU NEVER KNOW ABOUT THE NEXT!
HE MAY BE OVERRATED THIS YEAR,
YOU GUYS ARE THE SAME AGE
THAT AND,
twitch
NICE CATCH!

AGAINST URASOU, 1 POINT IN THE FIRST INNING IS GREAT!
AHAHA, I GUESS!
YOU WERE DOING GOOD OUT THERE! KAGU-YAMA-SAN!
"GOOD" FOR ME STILL TURNS OUT LIKE THIS THOUGH.
HAHA, SO ANNOYING!
NO, REALLY.
I CAN GO ALL OUT RIGHT FROM THE START.
phew
WHEN I'M ONLY PITCHING THROUGH THE 3RD,
...
pant
pant
IF I PLAYED ALL NINE INNINGS,
NO MATTER HOW MUCH EFFORT I PUT IN,
I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO PITCH LIKE THAT IN THE OPENING...

HE-HE
WHEN I GO ALL OUT
IT ACTUAL-LY GOES PRETTY WELL
OW !!
THAT HURTS !!
Just the same!
YOU PISS ME OFF!
GO TO THE BULLPEN ALREADY !!
HERE HE COMES !
LOOK !!
WHAT'D YOU GET IN TROUBLE FOR?
poff
GEEZ, SO FLEXIBLE ...
SFX: LOP


I WASN'T IN TROUBLE!
fwoosh!
SFX: THUD!
YOU HAFTA HIDE!
ACK!
SFX: SNICKER
THERE'S A MATCH GOING ON BEHIND THE FENCE!
HEY!
SFX: STEP

AH ...
MOVE
THE CATCHER IS CROUCH-ING DOWN!
SFX SHUFFLE

武蔵野
SFX: WHOOSH!

SFX: WHOO! THUD!
THAT WAS GREAT !!
quiver
quiver
sparkle

HA-RU-NA-SAN ...
HE'S NOT "THE WORST"
OH ...
HE'S CURLING UP INTO A BALL ...?
WHOA !!
WHAT?! WHAT'S WRONG?!
HE'S NOT THE WORST!
ABE -KUN !!
SFX. PWAP

NO MATTER HOW MUCH CONTROL ...
ALL BACK!
ABE-KUN WAS
THE ONE WHO CAUGHT THOSE PITCHES ...
OR HOW MANY
DIF-FERENT TYPES OF PITCHES I HAVE
SFX: THUD

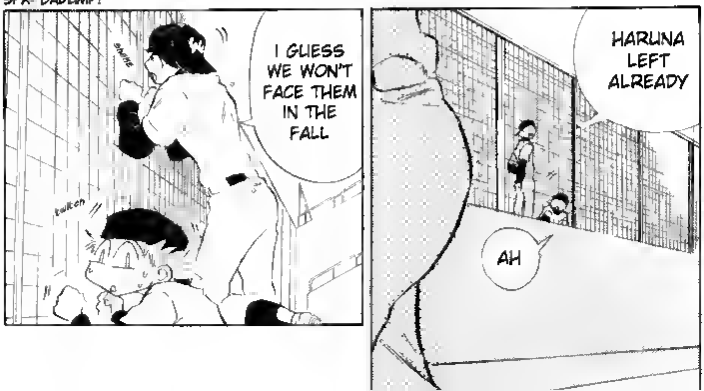
I CAN'T COMPARE TO THE GLAMOUR OF THOSE FASTBALLS!
NICE BALL!
. . .
WHEN ABE-KUN COMPLI-MENTED ME
THAT WAS... JUST TO MAKE ME FEEL GOOD,
SO I WOULD PITCH BETTER
. . .

I JUST CAN'T KEEP ACCEPTING COMPLI-MENTS
AND THINKING I'M BETTER THAN I REALLY AM
ABE -KUN IS
SOMEONE WHO KNOWS A REALLY GREAT PITCHER !!
PHEW
HAH
scrub
IT'S TRUE THAT HE WANTED TO
MAKE PITCH -ING
EASI -ER
FOR MY SAKE ...

THAT WILL ...
ALWAYS BE IMPORTANT TO ME ...
I'LL ACCEPT THAT PART ...

FEELING BETTER NOW?
!!!

SFX: BADUMP!


I GUESS WE WON'T FACE THEM IN THE FALL
HARUNA LEFT ALREADY
AH

AND THEN WE'D 'STRICTLY' WIN!
TAJIMA -KUN-.
I THINK THAT'S A DIFFERENT KIND OF 'STRICT'
IF WE DID, I'D HIT THOSE!
I'D 'STRICTLY' HIT THEM!
FACED THEM ...
IF WE ...
BASE-BALL ISN'T WON WITH SPEED OR NUMBER OF ROTA-TIONS.
IF WE DID...
FACE THEM ...
I'D HIT THOSE!

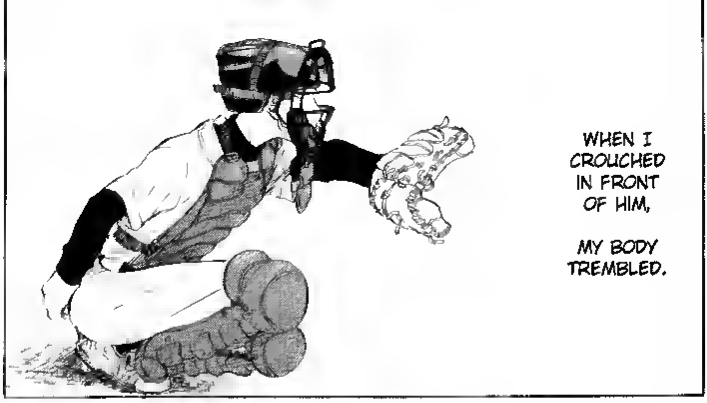
IT'S NOT A MATCH BETWEEN HARUNA -SAN AND ME...
IT'S
BASE -BALL IS PLAYED AS A TEAM!
IF THEY'RE GOING TO LET ME THROW ...
I'LL PITCH WITH ALL I'VE GOT!
第⑦回／終わり

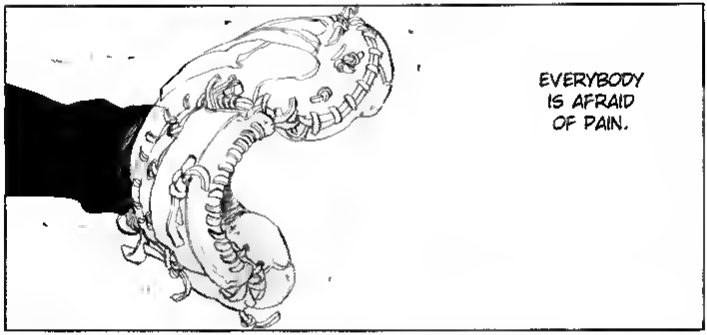
OMAKE 1

Manager's Special Skills

KASUKABE LOST TO MUSASHINO LAST AUTUMN, DIDN'T THEY?
IT'S THEIR TURN SOON.
AH!
KASU-KABE JUST GOT UP!
SHINOOKA, YOU KNOW THE TOUR-NAMENT CHART BY HEART?
So detailed...
THIS TIME THEY WON'T GET TO PLAY AGAINST EACH OTHER UNTIL THE FINALS, THOUGH.
SWISS
THREE YEARS WORTH OF DATA!
AMAZING!
EVEN THE POINT SPREADS
QUITE A LOT OF PEOPLE FROM OTHER SCHOOLS ARE HERE.
UH... YOU ALWAYS CARRY THAT WITH YOU...?!
Teams watching the game are always somehow connected I thought it was interesting.
NO, NO. I CHECKED WITH THIS.
fshwip
fshwip

WHAT A CUTE BABE!
HUH? WHERE!? WHERE!?
THE OPERA GLASSES?
THEY'RE HANDY!
ER, SO YOU ALWAYS HAVE THAT THING WITH YOU, TOO...?
BUT FOR SOME REASON TOSEI HAS COME, TOO...
UWAH!
swish
MOST OF THOSE ARE LOCAL SCHOOLS...
HOW CAN CHIYO-CHAN RECOGNIZE EVERY SCHOOL BY ITS UNIFORM?
hmm
he woke up
ah!
fwip
phfff
fwip
a guy, huh?
whet?
ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE, IN THE MIDDLE. THE UNIFORM IS GREY, BOTH THE JACKET AND TROUSERS...
Kesukabe Shiritsu
Tosei
A perfectly useless presentation of uniforms


WHEN I CROUCHED IN FRONT OF HIM,
MY BODY TREMBLED.


EVERYBODY IS AFRAID OF PAIN.

I KNEW I WOULD BECOME A REGULAR.
BUT IF I CAUGHT HIS PITCHES,

I THOUGHT IT WAS GOOD LUCK
THAT I HAD BEEN PAIRED WITH HIM...

YES SIR!
TAKAYA! C'MERE A SEC!
FALL
WELL ...
...
SO WHY DON'T YOU TWO SAY HI?
HELLO!
...HI
THIS IS A FIRST YEAR CATCHER. TAKAYA, ABE
THIS IS HARUNA MOTOKI, A SECOND YEAR PITCHER STARTING TODAY. TAKAYA,
UH ...
...

TAKAYA, YOU DON'T HAVE A PARTNER NOW, RIGHT?
RIGHT!
WHY DON'T YOU GO WITH MOTOKI FOR A WHILE?
HUH?
AND I'LL ONLY THROW 80 A DAY.
THE MENU'LL BE THE SAME AS THE OTHER 2ND YEARS,
AND THE NUM-BER ...
I'LL DECIDE THAT FOR MYSELF
IF YOU'RE OKAY WITH THAT,
THEN GO AHEAD.
...
OH, RIGHT ...
UMM ...
ANYWAY, HE'LL BE YOUR CATCHER!

WELL, SEE YOU AFTER PRACTICE!
YES SIR!
...
WHAT A SHRIMP. HOW TALL ARE YOU?
...
roughly 5'3
...160 CM.
IF A FIRST-YEAR'S MY TARGET, I WON'T BE ABLE TO PITCH AS HARD AS I WANT TO...
"TAR-GET"?
WHY IS THAT?
'CAUSE YOU'LL GET HURT!
I WON'T IF I WEAR THE EQUIP-MENT.
THERE'S NO BATTER ...
AND I'M NOT THAT BAD AT CATCHING.

... HEY
YOU TRYING TO START A FIGHT?
...
I-I'M NOT TRYING TO-
WELL, YOU PISSED ME OFF!
YOU SAID YOU WEREN'T BAD,
SO YOU'D BETTER PROVE IT.

UGH!
TIME TO WRAP IT UP!
LET'S GET GOING EVERY-ONE!
COUGH
WHEEZE
OK, LET'S GO!
COUGH
AH...
COUGH

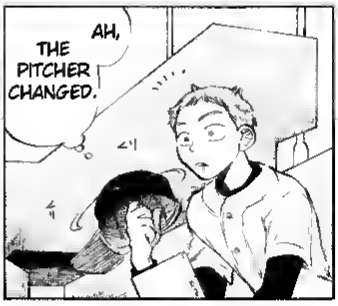
YOU OK?!
TA-KA-YA!
SHOULD WE CALL COACH?
HAH ...
DAMMIT ...!
...
WINTER

BUT I HAVEN'T BEEN HITTING YOU LATELY.
ARE THESE OLD BRUISES?
OH.
THESE ARE NEW ONES...
ヌギ
YOU'RE SO BEAT UP!
THAT WAS FROM YOUR PITCH, DAMMIT !!
YOU CAN SEE THE IMPRINT OF THE SEAMS !!
AHAHA !!! WHAT THE HELL ?!
you have ones like that?!
no control at all
IS FROM WHEN I GOT HIT WITH THAT FOUL TIP
THIS
WHICH ONES?
THAT ONE HURTS THE MOST
ヤス
BUT THIS ONE...
THAT ONE'S NOT MY FAULT.
The one that fell.
AH ...

BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT SCARED!
WELL, I GUESS I CAN PITCH WITHOUT WORRYING.
BUT I GUESS IT'S MY FAULT IN THE END.
1/0
7
THEY'RE CALLING STARTERS FOR SATURDAY'S GAME!
YEAH?
MO -TO -KI!
---!!
his office?
where's coach?
PRAISE ME?
DID HE...
JUST NOW...

Huh ?
YES !!
Something good, Takaya?
FINISH WRITING SOON!
YOUR PREDICTIONS FOR THE SCORE ARE BEING COLLECTED AT THE START OF THE 4TH INNING!

THIS SHOULD BE OKAY
ALL DONE?


AH, THE PITCHER CHANGED.

IT'S JUST LIKE ABE SAID...
HARUNA-SAN REALLY DOES ONLY PITCH 80 TIMES.

I PUT "9" FOR WALKS TOO
OH, I SEE NOW.
HE HAS BAD CONTROL ?
HERE
have a look
LEMME SEE!
YOU GIVE HARUNA-SAN A LOT OF CREDIT!
OH? PREDICTING "9" FOR STRIKEOUTS ?!
EH ...
shine
PRETTY MUCH.
HE'S WONDERING ABOUT IT.
I SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID THAT.
THAT'S
IS THAT WHY HE'S "THE WORST"?
?!
MIHASHI !!

YEAH, I WAS CALLING YOU!!
If you've written your score some up!
...
C'MERE !!
OH, ME?!
sfx: jump
?!
BAD PRO -TEINS
They didn't watch the game and are now consulting each other
DON'T LOOK AROUND ...
UGH
WERE'N'T YOU CURIOUS, TOO?
WHY HARUNA -SAN'S ...
H-HEY ...
WHAT
IS IT?
SAKAE -GUCHI -KUN'
...THE "WORST" PITCHER ?

HEY, HEY,
IT'S BAD FOR YOUR ROLE AS A PITCHER!
YOUR EMOTIONS SHOW SO EASILY,
LET IT BE FOR NOW!
...
I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED
SEE, HE IS!
...
WE HAVE A CHANGE IN MUSASHINO'S POSITIONS ...
10

PITCHER KAGUYAMA, IN RIGHT FIELD.
RIGHT FIELD HARUNA, PITCHING.
SWITCH-ING AS STATED.

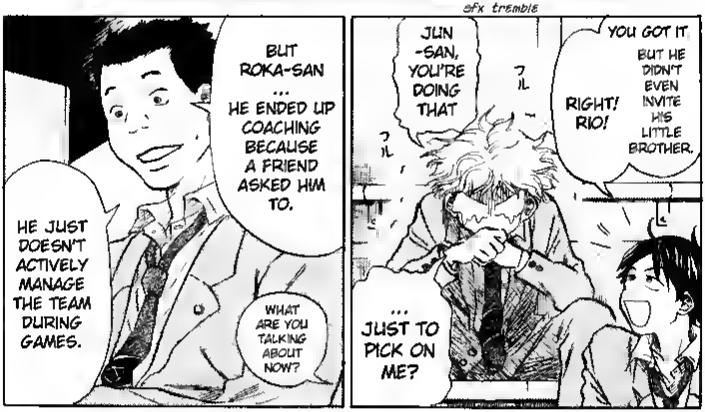
PITCHER HARUNA, NUMBER 10.
RIGHT FIELD KAGU-YAMA, NUMBER 1.

ONE OUT!
TOP OF THE FOURTH, URAWA SOUGO HIGH SCHOOL BATTING.
UP FIRST, THIRD BASE-MAN SASAKI -KUN.
HE STRUCK OUT BEFORE THE ANNOUNCER HAD TIME TO CALL HIS NAME.
BUT URASOU'S ALREADY GOT THREE RUNS.
HARUNA CAME IN TOO LATE.

RIO! HARUNA'S ON THE MOUND!
YOU AWA..
AWAKE?
NOT BAD.

IT'S JUST THAT HIS TIMING WAS OFF BECAUSE THE STARTING PITCHER WAS THROWING ABOUT 120 OR SO.
KATS
YOU THINK ?
WHAT-EVER
PRETTY AVERAGE.
sfx: twitch
SOMETHING HAPPENED BETWEEN YOU AND HARUNA?
YOU CONCLUDED THAT AFTER WATCHING ONLY ONE BATTER?
OR IS IT ...
sfx: stress!
!!
!!
OH, ROKA -SAN?
HIS BROTHER WAS REJECTED BY HARUNA.

ROKA-SAN, HE'S NOW COACHING BIJOU DAI SAYAMA, RIGHT?
SO, HE INVITED HARUNA TO PLAY AT BIJOU?


sfx tremble
BUT ROKA-SAN ... HE ENDED UP COACHING BECAUSE A FRIEND ASKED HIM TO.
HE JUST DOESN'T ACTIVELY MANAGE THE TEAM DURING GAMES.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT NOW?
JUN -SAN, YOU'RE DOING THAT
ブル
ブル
... JUST TO PICK ON ME?
YOU GOT IT RIGHT! RIO!
BUT HE DIDN'T EVEN INVITE HIS LITTLE BROTHER.

NO WAY! YOU COULD TOTALLY DO IT!
GET OUT!
I WISH YOU'D STOP WITH THE MARRIED-COUPLE COMEDY ACT. IT'S GROSSING ME OUT
I BET YOU COULD DO THE SAME THING!
THAT'S TOO MUCH!
OI OI!

I JUST HAPPENED TO BE HARUNA'S "WALL".
YEP. HARUNA WAS OUR ACE.
ABE ENTERED THE KANTO LITTLE SENIORS IN 8TH GRADE?
AND PLAYED AS A REGULAR ON THE TEAM FOR TWO YEARS?
EH? THERE'S A CONNEC-TION?
Can you establish a battery like that?
Well?
THE OTHER CATCHERS COULDN'T CATCH WHAT HE WAS THROWING.
SO ... SO SAYING THINGS
LIKE ...
BUT ... THEN ...
THE MORE I HEAR THE MORE AMAZED I AM.
SO YOU GOT TO BE A REGULAR BECAUSE OF THAT UNCATCH-ABLE SUPER-FASTBALL?
SO WHAT ?
YOU OWE IT ALL TO HARUNA-SAN, BECOMING A REGULAR SO EARLY, DON'T YOU?

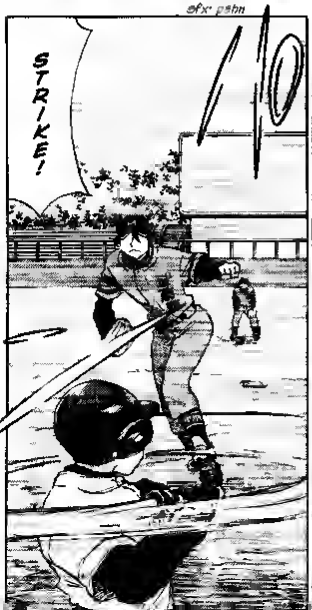
wall = catcher who takes part in bullpen pitching practice.

TN Note: As far as we know there is not an English word for this kind of position

sfx: panic

sfx: switch

sfx: pshh



sfx: smash

sfx: grind grind

ER, THAT'S NOT IMPROVING THE SITUATION
Can't understand the reason for all the stress
WHAT THE HELL KIND OF REACTION IS THAT!!

HE DIDN'T WALK ANY-BODY.
YEAH
.....
sfx bash

I'M CALLED .....
E-EVEN...
IF...
sfx g-nn

WITH EVERY-THING I'VE GOT!
spin-ning
I JUST THROW!
sfx hss
.....
THE WORST!
THE ...
THE ...

CRAP.
WHEW.
YOU'RE THINKING TOO MUCH.
NOBODY SAID YOU WERE THE WORST.
HIS THOUGHT PROCESSES ARE UNFATHOMABLE
YOU'RE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM HARUNA.
.....

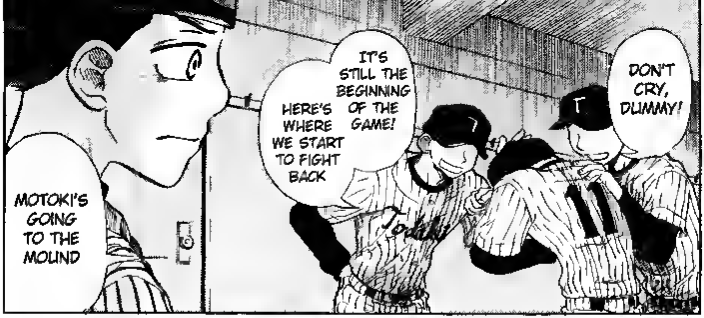
sfx pat pat

HARUNA
PLAYS BASEBALL BECAUSE HE WANTS TO BE A PRO.

EVERYBODY SAYS HE'S "AWESOME."
I COULD DO THAT.
Better not say that
I WONDER IF
NOT "AWE-SOME."
..... BE...
BECOME A PRO...
AWE-SOME
REVEALING HIS TRUE POWER DOESN'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE IN A GAME
HE HASN'T THROWN ONE YET AT FULL STRENGTH
HE ABSO-LUTELY WILL NOT THROW MORE THAN 80 PITCHES
THAT'S WHY HE GETS TO WEAR THE #1 ON HIS JERSEY
QUITO ...
BITE?
MOS ...
HE CLAIMED HE COULDN'T THROW A SLIDER BECAUSE OF A MOSQUITO BITE.
HE STEPS DOWN AT 81 LIKE A BIG BABY.
PRO PLAYERS' BODIES ARE VALUABLE COMMODITIES, SO THEY LIKE TO STICK TO AROUND 100 PITCHES, DEPENDING ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES.
THEY DON'T SAY "AT 101 I'M STEPPING DOWN."
HE WAS OVERLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE HEALTH OF HIS SHOULDER AND HIS ARM.
AT A TIME WHEN A SLIDER WOULD HAVE BEEN A PERFECT CHOICE

TN Note: "Ore-sama" is a manner of referring to oneself (first person pronoun) that implies an enormous ego and "better than you" attitude. There is no English equivalent
LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING WENT WRONG IN JUNIOR HIGH.
BUT THE GUYS WITH THE "ORE-SAMA" KIND OF PERSONALITY ARE ALWAYS
EXTREMEMLY DIFFICULT TO DEAL WITH WHEN THEIR DEFENSIVE INSTINCTS FLARE UP.
I'm thirsty but I'll just wait
WHAT IF
I GOT BITTEN
THAT'S AWFULLY OBSESSIVE.
IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN TELL WHERE THE BALL IS GOING HALF THE TIME ANYWAY.
Don't give signs like that!
YOU'RE GIVING THE BATTER WHAT HE'S LOOKING FOR!
THAT'S WHY YOU CAN'T IGNORE THE SIGNS!
THAT #6 WOULD HAVE STRUCK OUT EVEN WITH A SLIDER AS SLOPPY AS YOURS!
SO SORRY FOR BEING "SLOPPY"!
I DIDN'T FEEL LIKE THROWING IT SO IT DOESN'T MATTER!

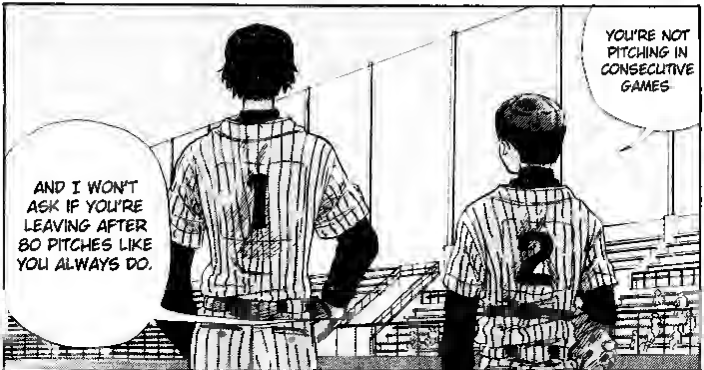
SHUT UP!
THE PITCHER HAS THE RIGHT TO SHAKE OFF THE SIGNS.
IT'S NOT ABOUT YOUR CRAPPY CONTROL, IT'S ABOUT LEADING!
THERE NEEDS TO BE SOME VARIETY, SO THROW THE PITCHES I'M ASKING FOR!
SAME AS NOW, BUT...
THAT WILL JUST BE OVER-LOOKED FOR YOU.
IT'S JUST FOR YOUR OWN CONVENIENCE THAT YOU'RE PLAYING NOW, ISN'T IT?
BUT I STILL THOUGHT I WAS FORTUNATE TO BE THAT GUY'S BACKSTOP..... WE WERE A GOOD BATTERY.
AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT UNTIL "THAT GAME."
SORRY I GAVE UP FIVE RUNS...
Sorry everybody, sorry Motoki...


MOTOKI'S GOING TO THE MOUND
HERE'S WHERE WE START TO FIGHT BACK
IT'S STILL THE BEGINNING OF THE GAME!
DON'T CRY, DUMMY!

FIVE RUNS IS DEFINITELY A SERIOUS DEFICIT.

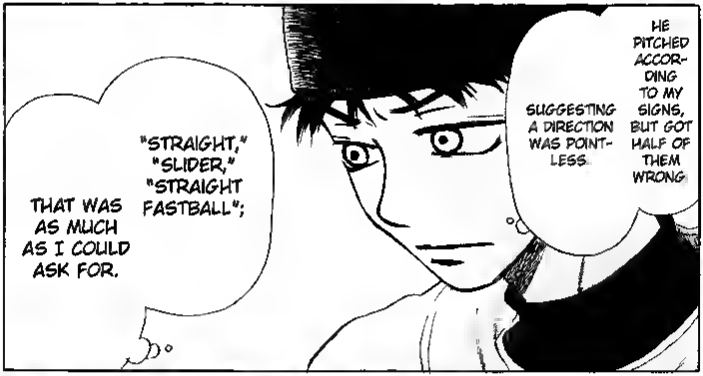
FIVE RUNS IS IMPOS-SIBLE.

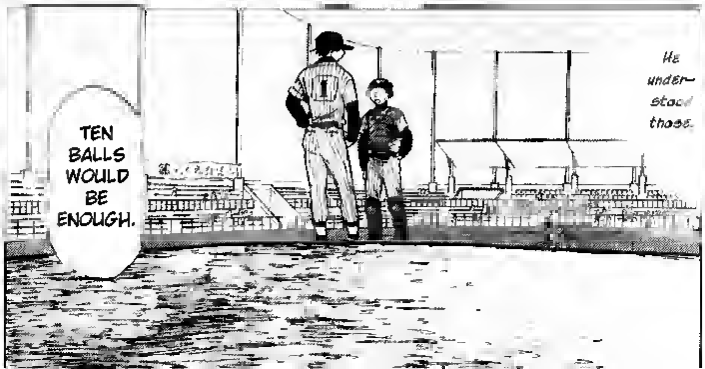
EVERYONE IS REALLY MOTIVATED!
IF WE WIN, WE'RE IN THE KANTOU BEST 8
...BUT


AND I WON'T ASK IF YOU'RE LEAVING AFTER 80 PITCHES LIKE YOU ALWAYS DO.
YOU'RE NOT PITCHING IN CONSECUTIVE GAMES

IF THERE'S ANY HOPE OF HIM PITCHING SERIOUSLY,
PLEASE!
PLEASE PITCH USING YOUR FULL POWER!
NOT A CHANCE.
THEN THERE'S NO TELLING HOW THE GAME WILL TURN OU...
IF I USE MY FULL STRENGTH, I COULD BE INJURED AT ANY MOMENT.
MAYBE IF THE SITUATION WERE BETTER, BUT
THERE'S NO POINT RISKING INJURY IN A JUNIOR HIGH BASEBALL GAME THAT WE'RE GOING TO LOSE ANYWAY.

I'M GOING TO PITCH ACCORDING TO THE SIGNS YOU GIVE!
BUT ...
HERE'S WHAT I'LL DO.
.....


HE PITCHED ACCORDING TO MY SIGNS, BUT GOT HALF OF THEM WRONG.
SUGGESTING A DIRECTION WAS POINTLESS.
"STRAIGHT," "SLIDER," "STRAIGHT FASTBALL";
THAT WAS AS MUCH AS I COULD ASK FOR.


He understood those.
TEN BALLS WOULD BE ENOUGH.

IF ONE PITCH WILL MAKE THE DIFFERENCE, WILL YOU THROW IT?
WHAT ABOUT ONE!
3 BALLS...!
5...
THEN...8
.....
Todakita
YOU'RE SO STUBBORN.
IF YOU'D JUST THROW ONE PITCH USING YOUR FULL STRENGTH...
JUST ONE WOULD BE ENOUGH TO SHOW THEM THAT YOU HAVE THIS KIND OF SPEED.
THE MOUND NOW.
I'LL LEAVE
IF YOU SAY ANOTHER WORD,

BALL!
BALL FOUR !!
pa!

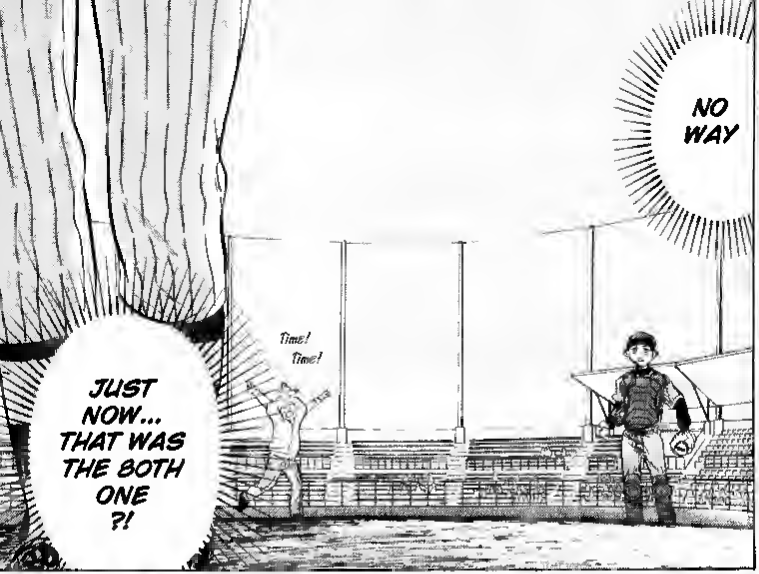
28..
S
B
O

EH?!
Tokaitan
sfx zat!

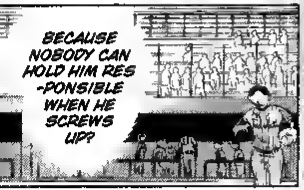
NO OUTS, BASES LOADED ...
CRAP

next up is number 5! right field back up!
OK!

EH ?
no outs!



BECAUSE THOSE ARE HIS RULES ?



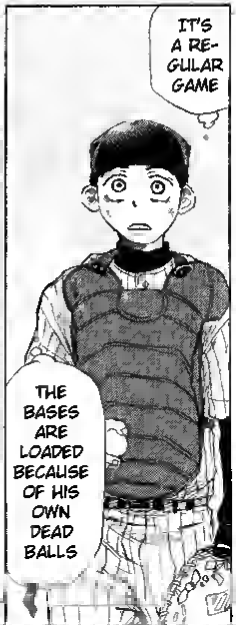
BECAUSE NOBODY CAN HOLD HIM RES-PONSIBLE WHEN HE SCREWS UP?

THAT WE'VE COME THIS FAR?

BE-CAUSE IT'S THANKS TO HIM ...

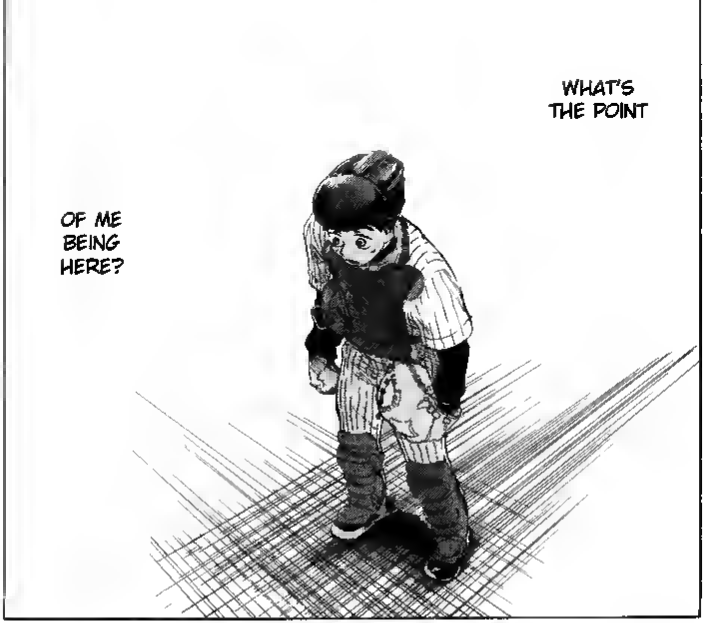
HE STILL THINKS IT'S OKAY

TO STEP OFF THE MOUND AFTER 80 THROWS ?!

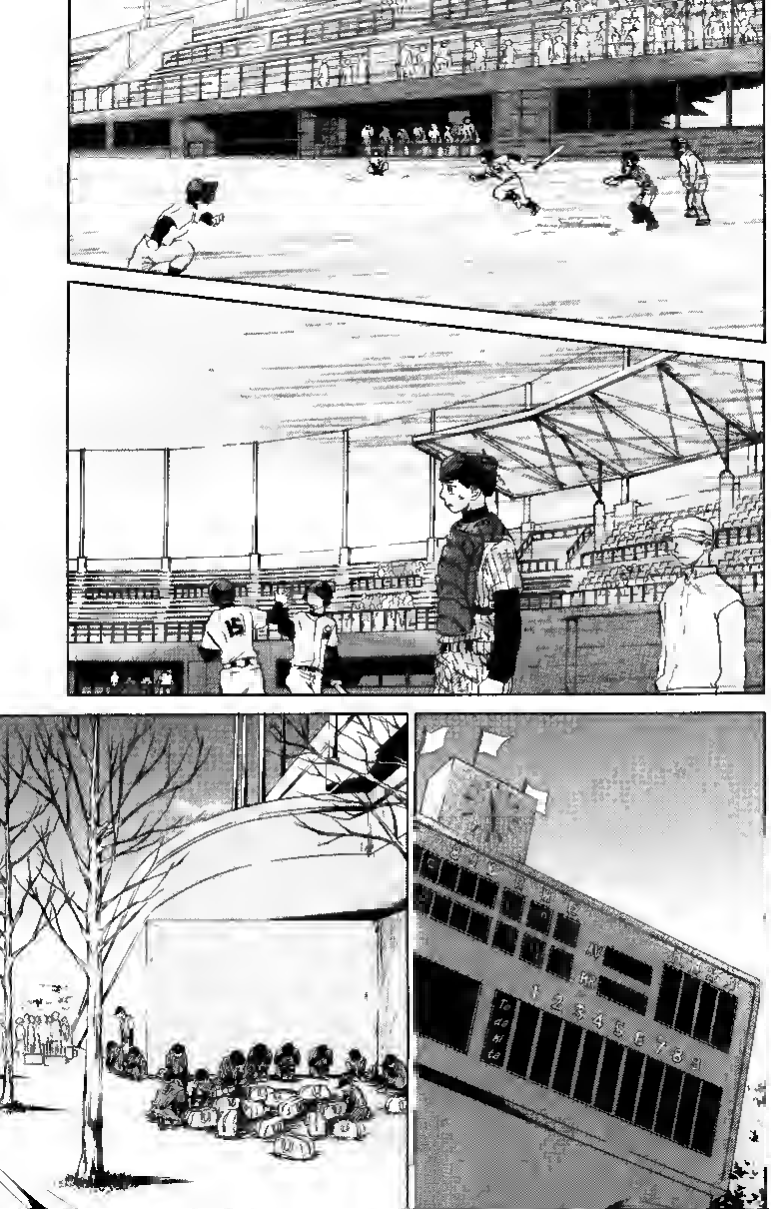


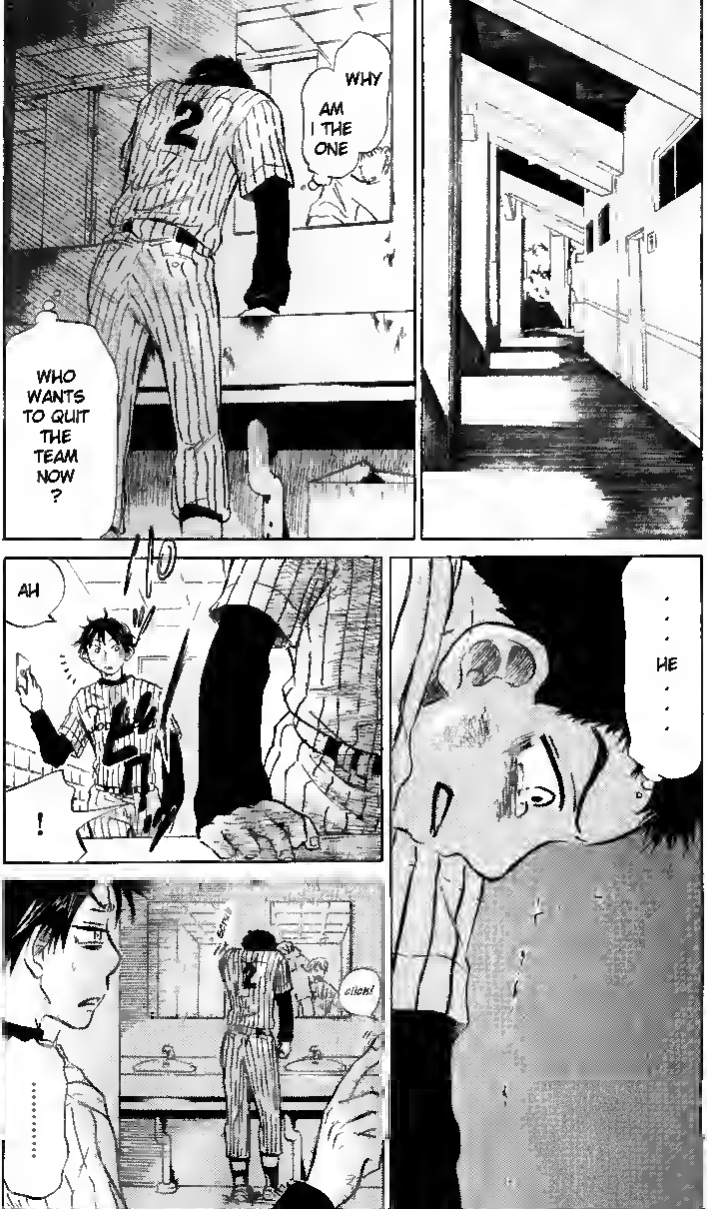
IT'S A RE-GULAR GAME

THE BASES ARE LOADED BECAUSE OF HIS OWN DEAD BALLS


WHAT'S THE POINT
OF ME BEING HERE?

WHAT WAS THE POINT
OF CATCHING HIS PITCHES ?



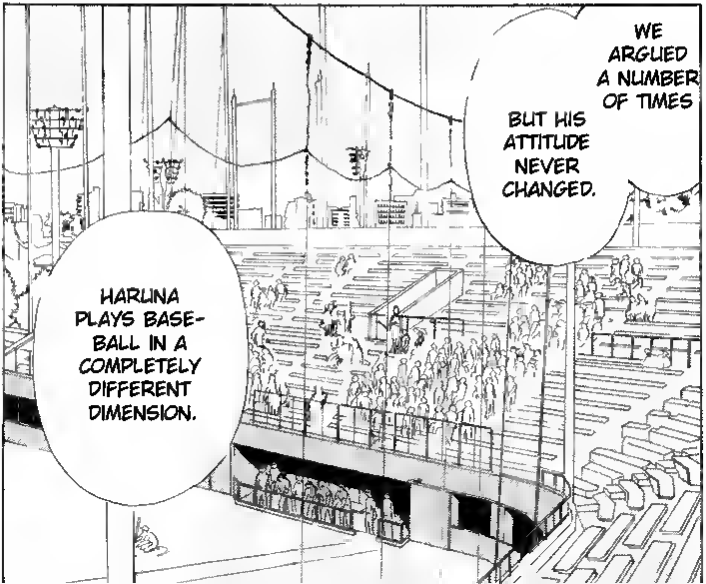

WHY AM I THE ONE
WHO WANTS TO QUIT THE TEAM NOW ?
AH !
. . . HE . . . .
click!
. . . . . .

IS THAT REALLY SOMETHING TO CRY ABOUT ?
PUSH!
SIGH
GRAB!
!!
SFX: THUD!

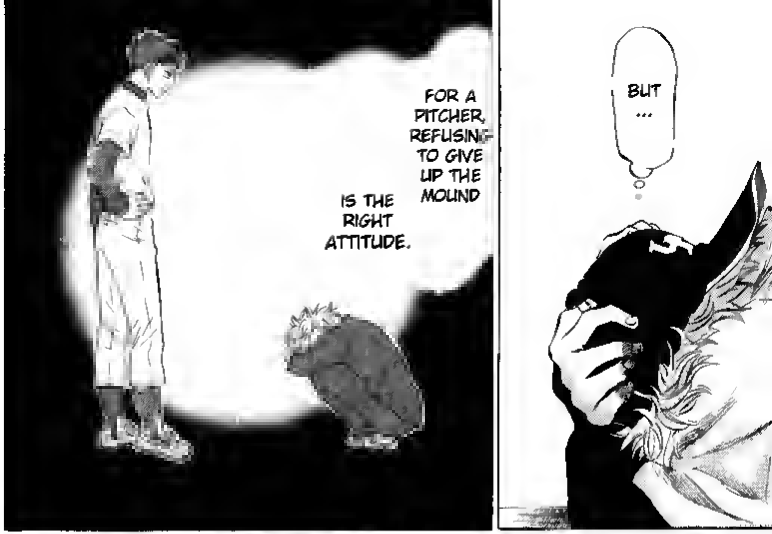
HEY
MY LEFT ARM ...
WHAT IF YOU CAUSED AN IN-JURY ?!
PULL

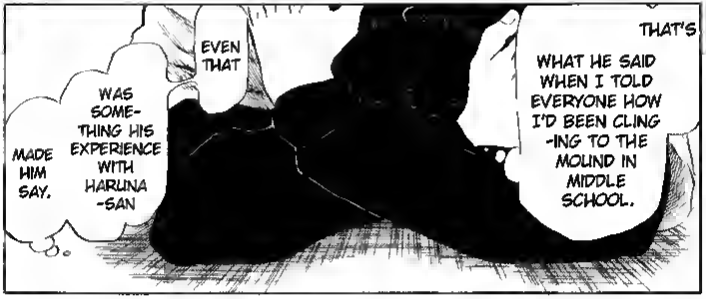
LET GO!
.....
oh
... SORRY

FOR HIM, WE TEAMMATES WERE NOTHING BUT HIS TRAINING EQUIPMENT.
IN THE END ... WE REMAINED A BATTERY UNTIL HIS RETIREMENT


WE ARGUED A NUMBER OF TIMES
BUT HIS ATTITUDE NEVER CHANGED.
HARUNA PLAYS BASEBALL IN A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT DIMENSION.

I DON'T WANT TO
TEAM UP WITH SOMEONE LIKE THAT EVER AGAIN.
IT'S LIKE A DIFFER -ENT WORLD.
IN THAT SENSE, HE'S CERTAINLY AMAZING.
BUT
AS THE TEAM ACE, HE'S THE WORST.
AH
ABE -KUN
SOUNDS AS IF HE HATED HARUNA -SAN
WAH- WHAT'S WRONG ?!
AH
UH
WHA- WHAT HAP- PENED ?!
HUH? WHAT NOW?!

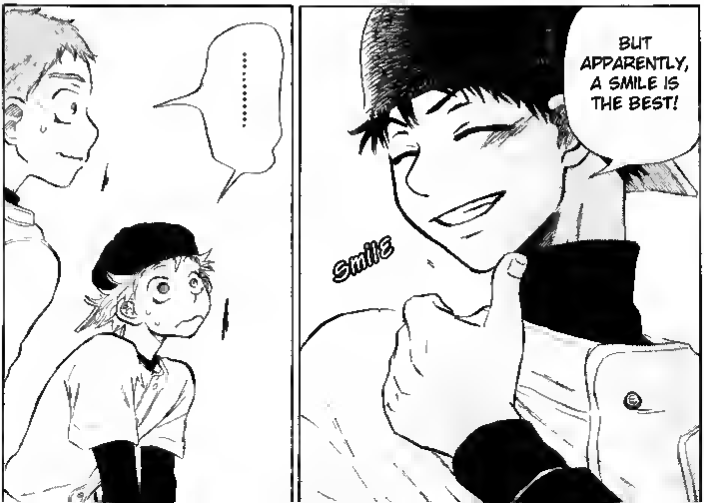

FOR A PITCHER, REFUSING TO GIVE UP THE MOUND
IS THE RIGHT ATTITUDE.
BUT ...


THAT'S WHAT HE SAID WHEN I TOLD EVERYONE HOW I'D BEEN CLING -ING TO THE MOUND IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.
EVEN THAT
WAS SOME- THING HIS EXPERIENCE WITH HARUNA -SAN
MADE HIM SAY.

THE REASON ABE-KUN CAN'T FORGIVE HARUNA -SAN
IS NOT BECAUSE HE FAILED AS A TEAM ACE.

ABE-KUN
WANTED HARUNA-SAN TO LOOK HIS WAY
10
IT'S BECAUSE HARUNA-SAN WAS
ABE-KUN'S OWN ACE
10
HE WANTED
TO FORM A PROPER BATTERY WITH HIM
HE WANTED HARUNA-SAN
TO PLAY BASEBALL SERIOUSLY WITH HIM THEN
AND NOT ONLY AFTER BECOMING A PRO

LET'S SEE ...
AN EXPRESSIONLESS FACE IS FINE
LISTEN ...
YOU SHOULD LEARN TO CONTROL YOURSELF A BIT.
YOU CAN'T ALWAYS CRY SO EASILY LIKE THIS.
WAHHH
.....
SHOUT
IF YOU SHOW SUCH A FACE ON THE MOUND, THE TEAM WILL BE IN SERIOUS TROUBLE.
!
I'M TALKING ABOUT DURING THE GAMES.


.....
BUT APPARENTLY, A SMILE IS THE BEST!
Smile

THE TEAM WILL CALM DOWN AND YOU'LL PISS OFF THE OPPONENTS.
COME ON, TRY IT
Like this
Look
.....
AH
UH ...
UMM ...
UH ...
BWAHA -HAHA!
That's perfect! Definitely promising!!
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
CHEE-
-EESE!
And now you'll piss off the batter!
EHE HE HE ...
THE ONE PITCHING WITH ABE-KUN . . .

ME
IS NOW ...
HUH?
MIND IF I REPEAT THIS CONVERSATION TO EVERY-ONE?
!!!!
I laughed myself to tears
HA HA ...
BY THE WAY,

sfx: shock

In the middle of the game, Musashino Daiichi turned the tables around
They went into the last inning leading 4 to 3.
In this inning, 2 outs,
no runners, ball count 2-1
ポン
ポン
ソロ

Finish 'im!
WHAT THE ?
UH?
HM?

JUST NOW...
HEY
TAJIMA!
TAKE A LOOK!
ポニ
ポッ

武蔵野
SFX: FWOOOOSH!

SFX: WOOOOOSH!
!!!

UGH!
STRIKE!
DAMN IT!
...!!
Don't throw!

WHAT HAP-PENED?
WHAT'S WITH HIM?
HARU-NA...
TIME!
WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN.
SORRY 'BOUT THAT!
ふう
GOT IT!
GO GET THAT LAST OUT!
武蔵野
I'M SORRY, TOO.
NO,

WHAT, ONLY ONCE?!
Booorinng~~~
I TOLD YOU TO STOP THAT!
WAHHH!
You guys are so open with each other
nervous glance
glance
nervous glance
glance
glance
SNAP
LINE UP!

GOOD GAME!
WELL, LET'S HEAD BACK
WE'RE NOT STAYING FOR THE 2ND GAME?
WINNER: MUSASHINO HIGH SCHOOL, 4-3!
(throwing) ice
thud
I THINK THE OTHERS HAVE HAD ENOUGH
WE SPENT HALF A DAY TO SEE THAT ONE PITCH
WE WERE PROBABLY LUCKY TO SEE EVEN ONE
MAN, WE'RE RUNNING HOME, TOO
Line up!
IF WE RUN NOW, WE CAN MAKE IT BACK IN TIME FOR LUNCH!
HEY!

WELL, LET'S GET TO PRACTICE!
PROBABLY
EH, REALLY?
TOMORROW'S OPPONENT IS EVEN TOUGHER.
WON'T THERE BE MORE TOMORROW?
THE PROBLEM'S WITH THE CATCHER.
IT'LL BE THE SAME
IF YOU'D JUST GONE WITH MY BROTHER, YOU'D HAVE A WAY BETTER CATCHER!
YOU'RE AN IDIOT, HARUNA.
THUMP
please prepare the grounds for the next match
Winning team Musashino.

I'LL CLEAN UP FOR YOU!
OH!
GOOD JOB!
OK!
Ahi-mura, you, too!
Go with Haruna!
OK!!
gasp
Whoa, we won!
Are we that great?!
We're good, aren't we?!
HE'S GONE
HARUNA?!
THAT LITTLE —!

WHAT'S THE MATTER?!
WAIT UP!

HUH?
HOW DID YOU KNOW?
I THOUGHT I'D HEARD THAT NAME SOMEWHERE
THERE WAS A LOT OF TALK ABOUT HIM IN JUNIOR HIGH

I TOLD HIM TO WAIT, DAMMIT!

OH, "TAKAYA"?
YOUR CATCHER IN THE SENIORS, RIGHT?

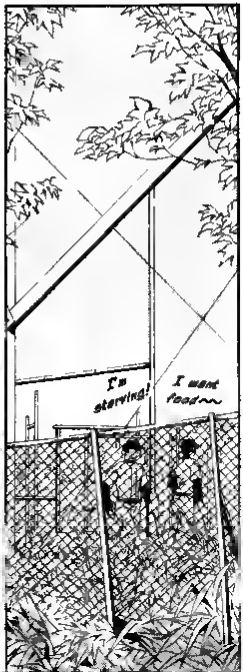
BUT DIDN'T YOU COMPARE US A LOT?
YOU SAID THERE WAS AN INTERESTING 1ST-YEAR IN THE SENIORS
HE PROBABLY HATED YOU FOR BEING SO TROUBLESOME!
GEEZ, HE WAS SUCH A RUDE KID...
THERE WAS?!
EHHH?!
NO, HE REALLY WAS DISRESPECTFUL!
WELL,
HE WAS A GOOD CATCHER.
FOR THOSE OF US WHO WERE STILL ON THE JUNIOR HIGH TEAM ..
武蔵野
BUT HE
WENT AROUND CALLING ME "THE WORST" AND STUFF...
WHAT?
WHY WAS THAT ?
IT WAS A RELIEF TO HEAR THAT.

SO YOU WERE ALWAYS PAIRED WITH HIM?
I WANTED TO TALK TO HIM AFTER WE WON!
TO SOMEONE WHO'S HIS SENPAI
HE SEEMS VERY DEFIANT
I DUNNO!
10
ONLY HE COULD CATCH MY PITCHES
THAT'S BECAUSE...
M
BUT...
HE WAS STILL WITH HIM WHILE BEING CALLED "THE WORST"...
I'm so stressed out...
M
SWING
He turned his back
and wouldn't let anyone near him at school or at home...
10
IN JUNIOR HIGH,
WHEN HARUNA SAID HE'D QUIT THE TEAM AND BASEBALL,
IT WAS REALLY SCARY

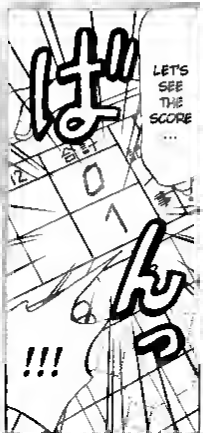
THAT WAS WHEN HE ENTERED THE SENIORS.
IF I HAD TO STAY WITH HARUNA WHEN HE WAS LIKE THAT...
I CAN RELATE TO TAKAYA!
Let's go hit the showers.
WHADDYA MEAN?!
tremble
?
IF YOU GOTTA GO PEE, WE CAN GO.
After he joined the Seniors,
HERE!
Haruna slowly returned to normal.
During that time Takaya was with him...
He must have endured a lot of stress.
I WANT HARUNA TO BE ABLE TO FORGET
HOW BAD IT WAS BACK THEN, BUT...

HEADS UP!
The fact that Haruna's pitching naturally again
It's all thanks to Takaya

Who's going to the store~~?
THIS ONE IS MIHASHI-KUN'S
I'll score now!
SO LET'S SEE HOW EVERYONE PREDICTED AFTER THE 3RD INNING ...


I'm starving!
I want food~~

POINTS!
ZERO


LET'S SEE THE SCORE ...
0
1
!!!

Zero!!
TAJIMA-KUN, SAME THING!
HN?

...WILL PITCH FOR ABE-KUN!
I'M THE ONE WHO ...
WELL THEN!
Abe-kun and I...
...will be a real battery.
Abe-kun...
...wanted to be a real battery with Haruna-san...
BUT WE'RE STILL MISSING SOME THINGS THAT WE NEED TO KEEP WINNING.
WE'VE SHAPED UP WELL AS A TEAM,
THE POSITIONS ARE FILLED
SOME-THING MISSING ?
WHAT DO WE NEED...
...TO KEEP WINNING ?
FIRST OF ALL,
IS THERE ANYTHING WE WANT?
ABE-KUN ...
YES, ABE-KUN?

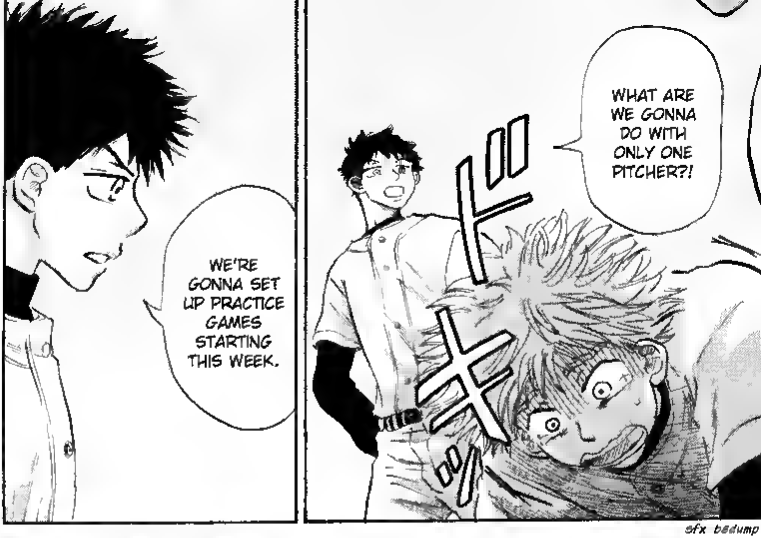
WE NEED ANOTHER PITCHER!
ガーン!
*SHOCK

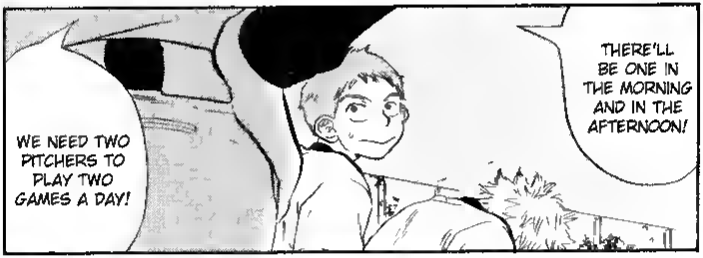
With Abe-kun, I
wwer
I.

...of this team...
I became the ace...
ぐっ
ぐっ
SFX: WAVER

I...
I...!!
I..
ぐっ
ぐっ

...
YES, I THINK SO TOO!
sfx punch
HEY ...
WHOA!
WHAT'S WRONG!!
"I'LL BE TAKEN OFF THE MOUND IF THERE'S ANOTHER PITCHER"
THIS MEANS...?
OR SOMETHING
HE HASN'T LOST HIS DESIRE TO STAY ON THE MOUND.
OH DEAR
THIS BOY IS REALLY SO...
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?!
I GUESS I WAS RIGHT.
SOB
SOB
WHA!?


WE'RE GONNA SET UP PRACTICE GAMES STARTING THIS WEEK.
WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO WITH ONLY ONE PITCHER?!
ドロ
ドキ
sfx: bedump

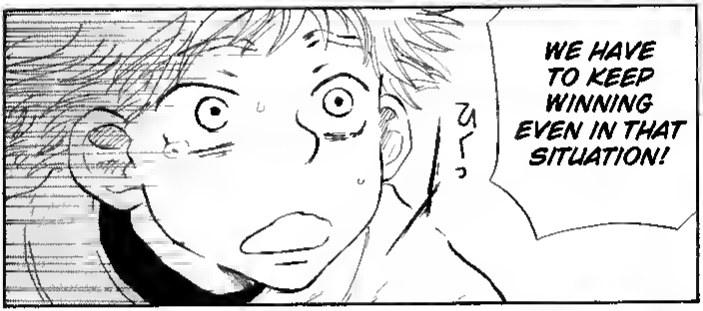

WE NEED TWO PITCHERS TO PLAY TWO GAMES A DAY!
THERE'LL BE ONE IN THE MORNING AND IN THE AFTERNOON!

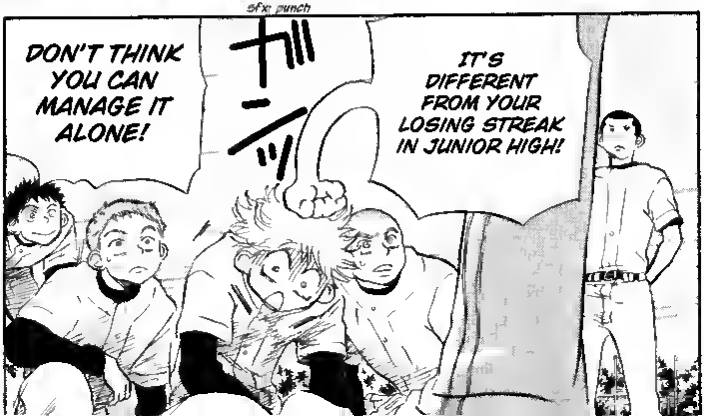
NO WAY!
I WON'T ALLOW IT!
ビク
ビクッ!

I...
I CAN PITCH FOR TWO GAMES
sfx: twitch

B-BUT I-IN...
JUNIOR HIGH, I—
YOU MEAN YOU PITCHED TWICE?!
GAAAH, THIS IS UNBELIE-VABLE!!
BU-
BU-
BUT I...!!
You're so persistent...
THERE ARE PRACTICE GAMES EVERY WEEK!
NORE-OVER,
THE SUMMER TOURNAMENT IS STARTING SOON!
WE CAN'T LET YOU THROW 300 OR 400 PITCHES ALL THE TIME!

THE SCHEDULE IN THE SUMMER IS VERY SEVERE!
YOU'RE UNDER THE BLAZING SUN,
THE INTERVALS BETWEEN GAMES GET SHORTER,
AND THE OPPONENTS GET STRONGER AND STRONGER!


WE HAVE TO KEEP WINNING EVEN IN THAT SITUATION!
ひ!っ


sfx: punch
DON'T THINK YOU CAN MANAGE IT ALONE!
IT'S DIFFERENT FROM YOUR LOSING STREAK IN JUNIOR HIGH!

SOME-THING THICK!
IS A MAGIC MARKER OKAY?
YEAH!
たたっ
SHINO-OKA!
THERE'S A NICER WAY TO PUT IT...
SHE'S SO HARSH
SHE
SQUEEMISH
GIMME SOMETHING TO WRITE WITH!
sfx tears
HERE!
THANKS!
HUH?
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!
キュー
キュッ
キュッ
キュ
AH—
NUM-BER ONE—
ALL RIGHT!
TAKE A LOOK AT THIS!

Caption: -HE'S FINE WITH IT

OKAY! WE'VE GOT 2 MONTHS UNTIL THE SUMMER TOURNAMENT.
LET'S FOCUS ON THOSE WHO ALREADY HAVE PITCHING EXPERIENCE!
GET-TING BACK ON TOPIC...
OH! ER, YES.
Oooh!
HANAI-KUN!
PEOPLE WHO HAVE PITCHING EXPERIENCE CHECKED IN THEIR PROFILE...
*Name: Hanai Azusa
I SEE, I SEE.
AND THEN THERE'S ...
AND I NEVER PITCHED IN AN OFFICIAL GAME.
LET'S SEE...
HOW MUCH TIME HAVE YOU SPENT ON THE MOUND?
ABOUT 3 GAMES...
IN TOTAL.
BUT I HARDLY EVER WENT IN THE BULLPEN.

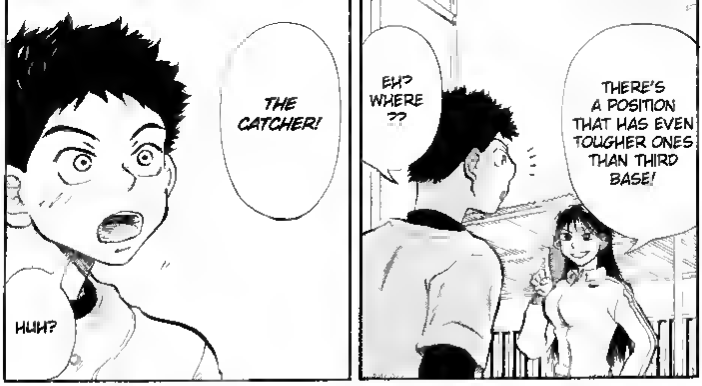
I HAVE SOME,
BUT I DON'T WANT TO PITCH IF I CAN HELP IT...
UM, WELL...
What's wrong?
IT DOESN'T REALLY SUIT MY PERSONALITY
OKI-KUN!
sfx "jump"
IT WASN'T CHECKED IN YOUR PROFILE BUT, BEING A SOUTHPAW ...
THERE'S NO WAY YOU'D HAVE NO PITCHING EXPERIENCE AT ALL, RIGHT?
...
BUT...
THERE'S NO ROOM TO BE MAKING THAT EXCUSE
IN A TEAM LIKE THIS!
AND,
I'VE ONLY DONE FIRST BASEMAN SINCE MY 3RD YEAR OF JUNIOR HIGH.
ABOUT 5 GAMES TOTAL IF I ADD IT UP.
HOW MUCH TIME ON THE MOUND?
... YES, I HAVE.
Really?

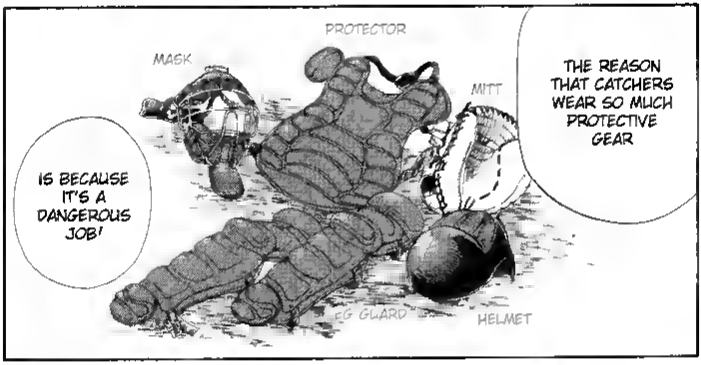
IS THERE ANYONE ELSE WITH ANY PITCHING EXPERIENCE?
HMM, I SEE
BE OKAY...
IT'LL..
AND THEN...
I...
ALRIGHT.
LET'S MAKE DO WITH THESE TWO!
sfx BADUMP
LET'S ALSO HAVE ANOTHER CATCHER!

YOU'RE SO TROUBLE-SOME!
TSK
NOT AGAIN !!
I DON'T WANT IT!
HEY, ABE, I'LL WRITE NUMBER 2 ON YOUR BACK!
Left-Handed Spin
THAT'S RIGHT!
He's right
clap!
Yep
YOU DON'T NEED TO GET SO PALE.
IN FACT, I'LL BE TROUBLED IF WE DON'T!
I WON'T GET DE-PRESSED IF WE HAVE A RESERVE CATCHER!
OKAY! I give up!
Don't strangle meeee!!
WE WON'T BE ABLE TO WARM UP ALL THE PITCHERS PROPERLY WITH ME AS THE ONLY CATCHER!
BUT THIS ...
1
HIS PARENTS MIGHT THINK HE'S BEEN BULLIED IF THEY SEE THIS.
WELL
EVEN IF WE WANT TO PICK ANOTHER CATCHER,

ABE-KUN IS
THE ONLY ONE WITH EXPERIENCE AS THE CATCHER IN HIS PROFILE.
TAJIMA-KUN, HOW ABOUT IT?
HUH?!
IS THERE ANYONE WHO FORGOT TO WRITE IT?
NONE, I SUPPOSE.
THEN ...
ME AS A CATCHER ?!
OH, I GET IT! TAJIMA!
THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF A CATCHER IS ARM AND SHOULDER STRENGTH. TAJIMA'S SHOULD ALREADY BE PRETTY STRONG SINCE HE'S 3RD BASEMAN.
PLUS HE'S DEFINITELY GOOD ENOUGH TO FOLLOW MIHASHI'S CURVEBALLS. HE COULD ALSO USE INSIDE WORK TO CONTROL IT FROM AFAR.

WHO COULD LEAD A PANIC-STRICKEN MIHASHI IF I COULDN'T BE THE CATCHER!
TAJIMA MAY BE THE ONLY ONE
THEY BOTH GET ALONG STRANGE -LY WELL.
ON TOP OF THAT,
THEY'RE BOTH AIRHEADS
TAJIMA-KUN, DO YOU LIKE PLAYING THIRD?
YEAH, I DO!
HMM, WELL
WHAT DO YOU THINK, TAJIMA?
I'M NOT THAT INTE-RESTED,
AND ALL THAT STUFF SEEMS HEAVY.
IT'S FUN BECAUSE THEY GET THE HARDEST BALLS!
WHY IS THAT ?


THE CATCHER!
HUH?
EH? WHERE ??
THERE'S A POSITION THAT HAS EVEN TOUGHER ONES THAN THIRD BASE!


PROTECTOR
MASK
MITT
EG GUARD
HELMET
IS BECAUSE IT'S A DANGEROUS JOB!
THE REASON THAT CATCHERS WEAR SO MUCH PROTECTIVE GEAR

AND WHAT'S MORE,
FOR INSTANCE, FOUL TIPS WILL CHANGE COURSE A METER IN FRONT OF YOU!
DANGEROUS MEANS THE TOUGHEST BALLS FLY TOWARDS YOU!

WHEN THERE'S A POP FLY THAT RISES INTO THE SKY,
YOU CHASE IT
AND CHASE IT...
THEN JUMP FORWARD AND CATCH IT!!
sfx SKID!
IT'S A REALLY,
sparkle
REALLY INCREDIBLE FEELING!
sparkle

IS THAT TRUE ?!
YEAH!
I'LL DO IT!
BEING A CATCHER IS REALLY FUN!
NICE JOB.
MOMO-KIN.
SO THAT'S THE NATURE OF A COACH ...

sfx: Jam!

SO IF WE USE THESE FIVE FOR THE BATTERY,
THE OTHER POSITIONS THEY PLAY WILL ALSO HAVE TO ROTATE!
FROM NOW ON, EVERYONE WILL PRACTICE MORE THAN TWO DIFFERENT POSITIONS!

OKAY, EVERYONE. WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME LEFT BEFORE THE SUMMER TOURNAMENT!
IN ORDER TO START OUT THE SUMMER TOURNAMENT WITH OUR BEST EFFORT—
YOU HAVE TO GIVE IT YOUR ALL!
YES!!

IT'S LIGHTER THAN I THOUGHT!
OH, WOW!
nice bunt!
Here!
Ball!
sfx thwack!

Whoa, you're so light
It looks good
IT IS LIGHTER THAN IT LOOKS.
JUMP!
Bounce
I CAN EVEN RUN IN IT!

IT'S OKAY FOR ME TO KEEP IT?
OH,
IT'S BETTER IF YOU DO IT YOUR-SELF.
THE MITT HASN'T BEEN BROKEN IN YET.
clatter
clink

REAL-LY?
IT MIGHT BE HARDER TO GET USED TO THE MITT THAN THE GEAR.

TAJIMA-KUN, YOUR CURRENT GLOVE IS PRETTY THIN, RIGHT?
YES! JUST MAKE SURE YOU BREAK IT IN WELL.
YEAH, A LITTLE

BECAUSE YOUR MITT FITS POORLY...
IF YOU DROP A FLY BALL
sfx squeeze

sfx pat pat

NAH,
TAJIMA SURE IS GULLIBLE.
I ACTUALLY THINK HIS TYPE IS HARD TO CONTROL...
LIKE HE'D RUN OFF IN AN INSTANT IF I GLANCE AWAY

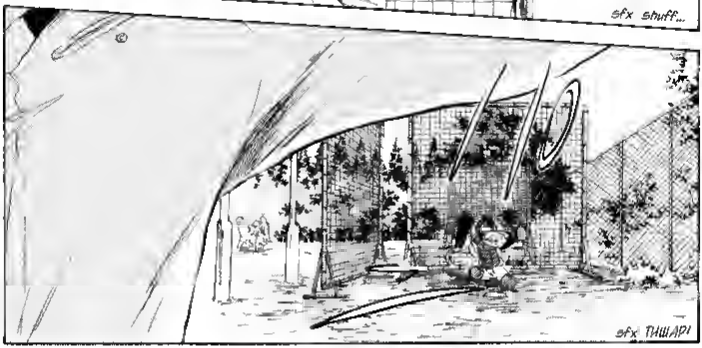
I-I'LL TAKE IT HOME TODAY AND BREAK IT IN!!
YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN?!
FOR SURE!!
sfx squeeze squeeze

O-
LET'S TRY OUT SOME PITCHES! HANAI-KUN, YOU START!
OKAY!
SO THAT MAKES MOMOKAN.
The battle positions is...
THAT WOMAN'S JUST MANI-PULATIVE

THAT'S THREE PITCHES!
ACK!
SORRY!

SFX THUD!

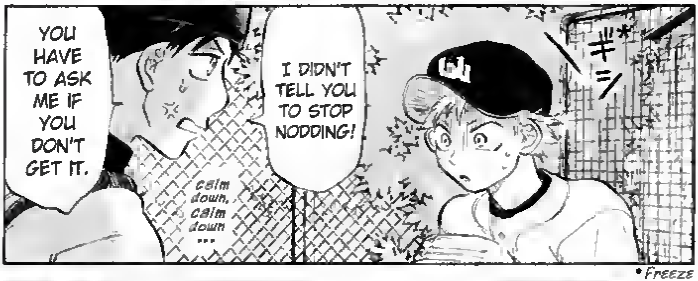
SFX: Stuff...


SFX: THWAP!

shuffle
shuffle
shuffle
.....
twitch

IT'S OBVIOUS YOU KNOW HOW BAD THOSE PITCHES WERE, RIGHT?
WITH THAT ACT,
HEY!
...!!
ARE YOU STILL TIRED FROM TRAINING CAMP?
shake
shake
I CAN'T UNDER-STAND YOU IF YOU WON'T TALK TO ME ABOUT ANY-THING.
...
PLUS YOU MIGHT HURT YOUR-SELF.
THERE'S NO POINT,
THEN QUIT PITCHING SO HALF-HEART-EDLY.
...
YOU KNOW,
ふう

DON'T NOD WHILE BEING SO CLUELESS.
THIS IS GETTING US NO-WHERE ...
...
nod!
?
DO YOU GET WHAT I'M SAYING ?
nod
nod


YOU HAVE TO ASK ME IF YOU DON'T GET IT.
I DIDN'T TELL YOU TO STOP NODDING!
calm down, calm down ...

• Freeze

I WON'T GET ANGRY NO MATTER WHAT YOU ASK ME.
WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS,

AHHH, I MEAN I'LL TRY TO BE MORE CAREFUL WITH THAT TOO.
...
UH ...
WELL... MY WORDS MIGHT BE HARSH,
SO IT MIGHT SOUND LIKE I'M ANGRY, BUT JUST IGNORE THAT OKAY?
UH, LEMME SEE ...
WAIT, IT MIGHT NOT MEAN THAT I WON'T GET ANGRY AT ALL, BUT ...
FIRST OF ALL! WHY AREN'T YOU PITCHING SERI-OUSLY ?
OH CRAP.
Wiii he get angry² Wiii he not be angry² "Information overload"
OKAY, I'LL GO ONE AT A TIME!
ARE YOU THAT AGAINST HAVING OTHER PITCHERS?

EH ...
NO, N- THAT'S ...
WELL ... I DON'T WANT IT...
I DON'T WANT IT ... BUT IT'S OKAY.
IT FEELS GOOD THAT, EVEN IF I COMPLAIN,
IT WON'T CHANGE ANYTHING.

I SEE.
HIS STUBBORNNESS DID CHANGE THINGS WHEN HE WAS IN JUNIOR HIGH.
THAT WOULD MAKE ANYONE FEEL AWKWARD.

I'LL SAY IT AGAIN, BUT
IT'S NOT THAT WE NEED ANOTHER PITCHER BECAUSE YOU'RE UNRELIABLE OR ANYTHING.
R- REALLY ?
I'LL SAY IT AS MANY TIMES AS IT TAKES
WE NEED TWO PITCHERS IN ORDER TO SET UP DOUBLES TO USE IN PRACTICE GAMES.

YOU DIDN'T HAVE YOUR PROTECTOR ON LAST TIME, DID YOU?!
THE BALL WILL BE HIT BACK TOWARDS YOUR RIGHT SIDE!
YOU'RE UNSTEADY AND YOU ALWAYS SEEM LIKE YOU ARE GOING TO FALL AND HURT YOURSELF.
THAT AND,
AHH...
UH!
DON'T RIDE IN CARS WITH DRUNK PEOPLE !!
SLEEP WELL! EAT WELL!!
NO MORE GAMES WITH-OUT SLEEPING !!
AND WITH LEFT HIT-TERS !
WE'LL HAVE TO GET THROUGH IT WITH HANAI AND OKI ON THOSE DAYS.
...
I really vented there
pant
AND THEN YOU CAN JUST RECOVER BY THE NEXT GAME! ALL RIGHT?
BUT THERE MIGHT BE A DAY WHEN YOU COULD BE SICK OR INJURED.
SO IT'S NOT ABOUT WHETHER YOU'RE THE ACE OR NOT,
OH.

OH, YOU MEAN ME?
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.
THE CATCH-ER?
THE CATCH-ER TOO ...?
...
TH-
IF I GET TACKLED AND DISLOCATE MY SHOULDER OR SOMETHING, I'LL HAVE TO PULL OUT TOO.
...
I-
IT
THAT'S NOT TRUE!
IT IS TRUE!
WHAT? SO THAT'S IT?!
I'M ...
A BAD PITCHER AND...
WITH-OUT ABE-KUN,
B-E-CAUSE

I'M A BAD PITCH-ER ...
IF ABE-KUN WON'T CATCH FOR ME,
USE-LESS ...
I'LL BE-COME A ...
PITCH-ER AGAIN.
...

IF I CATCH,
IT'LL MAKE YOU A "GOOD" PITCHER?

...
Y-
...

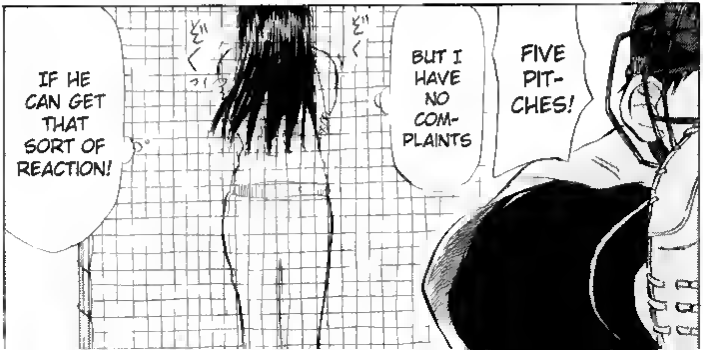
WHOA ...
YEAH!
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME
HE SAID SOME-THING POSITIVE ABOUT HIMSELF!
Grin
I WON'T GET SICK EITHER!
THEN I WON'T GET INJURED FOR 3 YEARS!

WOW...
REALLY ...?!
I'LL BE THE CATCHER FOR ALL THE GAMES YOU PITCH!
HEHE HEHE, GOOD REPLY!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT, BUT I'M SURE THEY HAD A GOOD CHAT!
IN EXCHANGE FOR THAT, YOU CAN'T GET INJURED EITHER!
RIGHT!

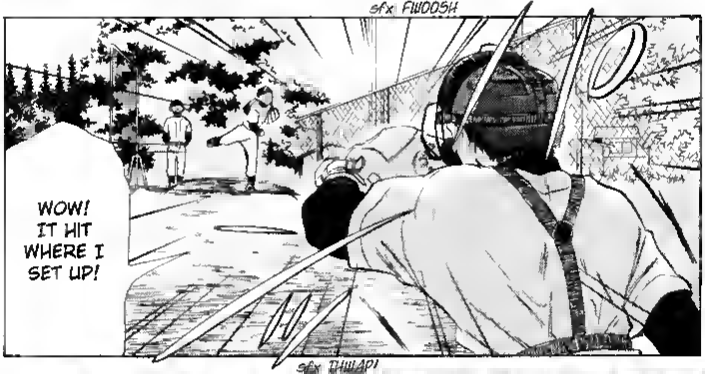
WHEN WE TALK ABOUT THE CATCHER'S QUALITIES,
THINGS LIKE FOOT-WORK, THEIR SHOULDER STRE-NGTH,
AND THEIR INTELLI-GENCE ARE IMPOR-TANT TO LOOK AT. BUT...

OKAY, NICE BALL!
I wasn't sure how much I could expect from a boy in his first year of high school,

What is essential to draw out the pitcher's potential
is the ability to commu-nicate.


IF HE CAN GET THAT SORT OF REACTION!
BUT I HAVE NO COM-PLAINTS
FIVE PIT-CHES!

sfx: FWOOSH



sfx: THWAP!

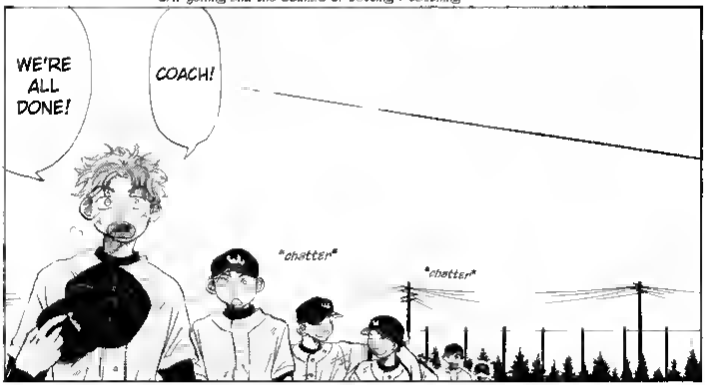
Did you just say fluke?
Tajima
AS EXPECTED OF TAJIMA-KUN...
HE CAN MANAGE A CERTAIN LEVEL RIGHT AWAY IF IT'S ONLY CATCHING AND THROWING.

I'LL TEACH HANAI HOW TO THROW A BREAKING BALL,
AND TEACH OKI-KUN SOME MORE BASIC PITCHING...
Shaddup I can't concentrate!
Go for it!
THOSE TWO ARE ALSO MUCH MORE ACCURATE THAN I EXPECTED.
THROW A WILD ONE!
THOSE ARE MORE FUN!
WE COULD PROBABLY EVEN USE THEM FOR A SECOND GAME IN THIS CASE.

AND TRAIN NISHIHIRO-KUN TO CATCH AN OUTFIELD FLY.
WE CAN IMPROVE MIHASHI -KUN'S PITCHING AS WELL,

HEH
BUNTS, BASE HITS...
AND ALSO FIXING UP SOME OF THEIR SWINGS.
GET THE INFIELD AND OUTFIELD TO MAKE MULTIPLE PLAYS...
ALSO WE CAN TRAIN EVERYONE'S THROWING THOR-OUGHLY.

sfx yelling and the sounds of batting & catching



sfx kyaaa

AN ORDINARY PROTEIN PRESENT!
Thank God!
That was close!
Phew!
MIDDLE 4! IZUMI-KUN! OKI-KUN! SAKAEGUCHI-KUN! NISHIHIRO-KUN!
NO WAY!
TOP 3! SUYAMA-KUN! MIZUTANI-KUN! HANAI-KUN!
A DELICIOUS PROTEIN PRESENT!!
YESSS!

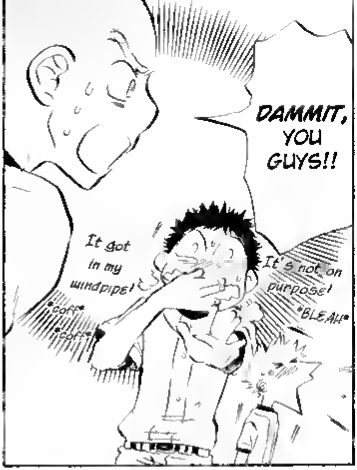
Damn...
ABE-KUN, YOU GROSSLY UNDERESTIMATED THE PITCHER!
THE BOTTOM THREE!

violent noogie
nOOO!
WWWW
WHAT THE!!
BESIDES THE PROTEIN, I'LL ALSO GIVE YOU THIS!

AS FOR TAJIMA-KUN AND MIHASHI-KUN!

I DON'T WANNA EAT THIS
NO!
EEP!
It tastes terrible!
I don't wanna
I want some!
Yeah!
ANYONE WANT MORE MILK?
LOOK, YOU CAN MAKE IT LIKE THIS.
OH, ALL RIGHT ALREADY
THANK YOU...!
HERE YOU GO.
How do it yourself then
TH
SO YOU CAN CRUSH IT LIKE THIS AND PUT IT DOWN YOUR THROAT.
kind of a useless process
YOU'LL GAG IF YOU TASTE IT IN YOUR MOUTH,
TEAR OFF A SHEET OF PAPER AND WRAP IT.
NGAH
Try not to taste it
sfx: surprise
BLEAA ARGH!
MUNCH
EEP!
YUCK...

UH, MOVING ON THEN!
Don't waste it!!
wheeze
cough


DAMMIT, YOU GUYS!!
It got in my windpipe!
It's not on purpose!
BLEAH

WOULD BE BEST FOR IT?
WHO DO YOU THINK ...

YOU'VE ALL GOT A PRETTY GOOD IDEA OF EACH OTHER'S PERSONALITIES BY NOW, RIGHT?
IT'S BEEN ALMOST A MONTH SINCE WE STARTED.

LET'S DECIDE ON A TEAM CAPTAIN, RIGHT NOW!
...
coughing!

THE CAPTAIN ...
HE'S GONNA DO IT FOR THREE YEARS?
IF THAT'S TRUE, IT'S A PRETTY BIG DEAL.
WE'RE ALL IN THE SAME GRADE,
SO WE SHOULD AT LEAST PICK SOMEONE WHO CAN STAND OUT.
AND WHO CAN TALK TO THE COACH OPENLY,
AND ALWAYS DOES HIS BEST,
BUT WON'T WASTE HIS EFFORTS.
SFX Quick turn
WHO HAS ENOUGH CONFIDENCE TO SHOULDER EVEN THE MOST THANKLESS TASK,
AND DOESN'T IGNORE THOSE WHO NEED HELP ...
OR IS RATHER A TYPE THAT'LL ACTUALLY STRESS OUT IF HE IGNORES THEM...

YOU
YOU GUYS !!!
sfx STARE
I AGREE WITH THEM.
HANAI-KUN HMM?
HMM, IT'S UNANI-MOUS.
SERI-OUSLY ?!
gulp
startled
WILL YOU DO IT?
.....

sfx: applause

ALL RIGHT.
HAHA
ABE!
THEN, SOMEONE FROM MY CLASS. (IT'S EASIER TO CONSULT THEM THAT WAY)
†Also from the same class
applause
SURE THING!
AND, SAKAE-GUCHI!
I WANT YOU TO LEAD THE INFIELD!
applause

SHOUT OUT? WHAT AM I GONNA SAY?
SH-
First job~
First job~
THEN, HANAI-KUN!
LET'S SHOUT SOMETHING AND FINISH!

ERM ...
EVEN IF YOU SAY THAT...
JUST YELL OUT ANYTHING YOU WANT TO SHOUT RIGHT NOW!
ANYTHING IS FINE!
Come on!
LET'S DO OUR BEST 'TIL THE SUMMER TOURNAMENT!

GO
NISHIURA
!!!

おおおお

Planning Part 1

① The Mihoshi Uniforms

Ideas that didn't appear in the manga

← This uniform is only used for practice games

In high school baseball, 2-color uniforms are forbidden in regular games

The official uniform looks like this

Hatake has a cap, too!

✗ If the club sets up a lot of practice games, the uniforms end up really worn out after 3 years so in some schools, the players have a separate set used for practice matches. It is especially common to have two pairs of trousers. Uniforms used in regular games are expensive, so the players have to take good care of them for 3 years.

In some teams the club-owned uniforms are passed around among the members

Even after graduation, all players keep and treasure their uniforms

OMAKE 2

Hello, it's me, Higuchi Thank you for reading the 3rd volume of Ookiku Furikabutte!

Well then, let's begin. To tell you the truth, the following 9 pages were originally distributed as a separate booklet at the autograph meeting organized at the time book 2 went on sale & I thought that if I didn't release these materials then, a chance to do so wouldn't come again, so I drew these pages and had them printed as a brochure I didn't expect to get so much space for the omake in vol 3 Because of the aforementioned circumstances, some of the contents may seem to be rather random or would have fit better as an omake in book 2, but please enjoy them the way they are!

- April - Invitational Tournament
Schools that have done well during the Autumn Tournament the previous year are invited to compete at the Koushien Stadium

- May - Spring Tournament
Up to the regional level

- July/August - National Championship
Schools that have won the right to represent their prefectures come to compete at the Koushien Stadium

- September - Autumn Tournament
Up to the regional level

Now something about "The Basic of Basics" that follows this omake "The Basic " is a one shot that was published in Afternoon 5 months before the serialization of Oofuri began The story revolves around the same Musashino Daiichi High who appears in vol 3

I've just realized that not only Ookawa, senpai and Hatake, but also Momokan and Haruna have pretty much the same faces

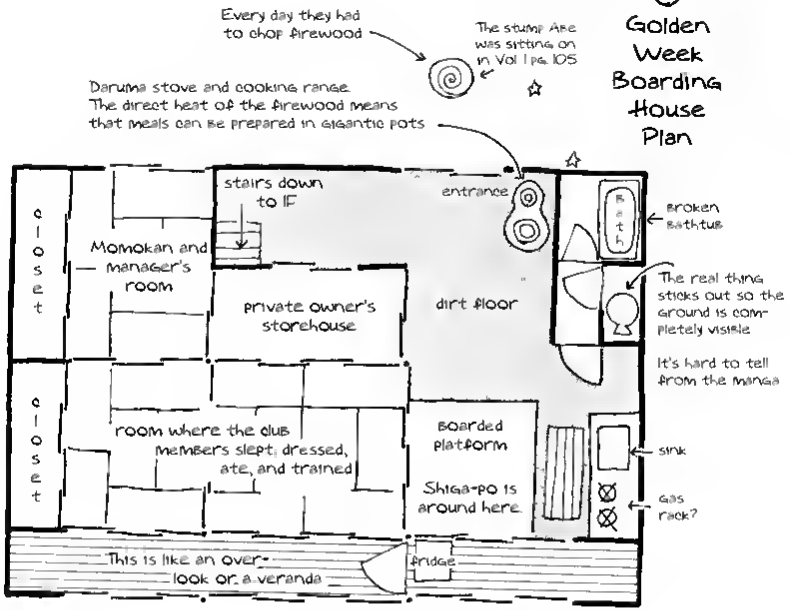
That's about it for the foreword

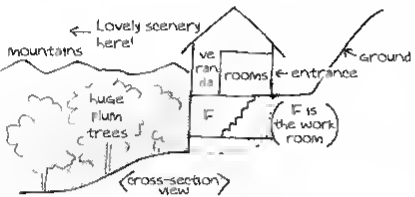
I used this space to provide a little explanation on the yearly schedule of Japanese high school baseball Aside from games organized by the Japan High School Baseball Federation, there's a national tournament known as the Jingu Tournament Numerous tournaments (for newcomers etc) are held locally in every region "The Basic " takes place about this time of year, preceding the events of the main story Mihashi & co are still middle school students and have just retired from middle school baseball

To the omake GO!

> The release of book 2 overlapped with the Afternoon Festival
The meeting wasn't organized because of the publication.
It doesn't really matter but just to be sure there's no misunderstanding.

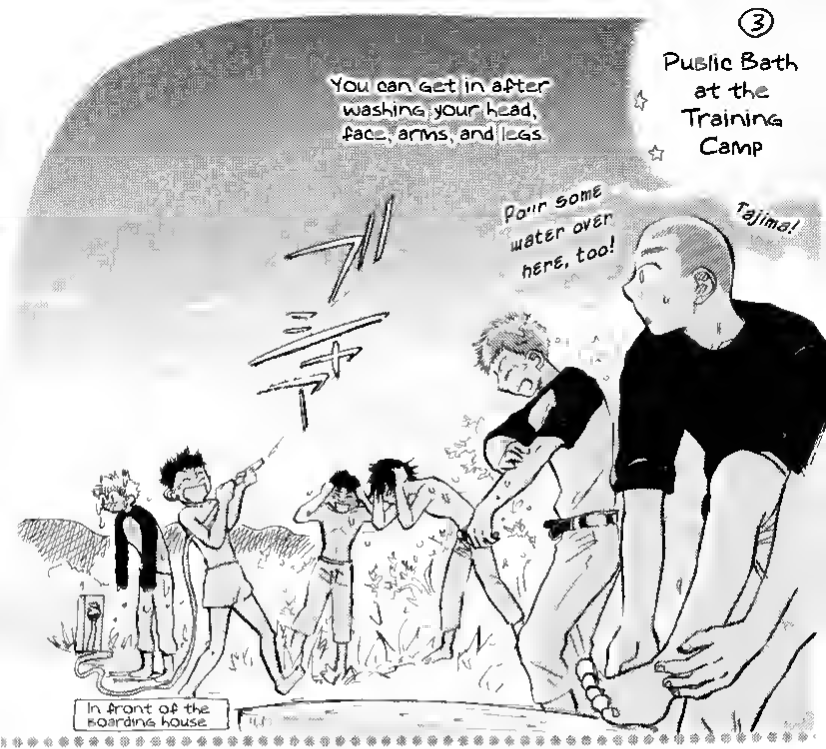
② Golden Week Boarding House Plan


Every day they had to chop firewood
The stump Abe was sitting on in Vol 1 pg. 105
Daruma stove and cooking range. The direct heat of the firewood means that meals can be prepared in gigantic pots
stairs down to 1F
entrance
Bath
broken bathtub
closet
Momokan and manager's room
private owner's storehouse
dirt floor
The real thing sticks out so the ground is completely visible
It's hard to tell from the manga
closet
room where the club members slept, dressed, ate, and trained
boarded platform
Shiga-po is around here.
sink
gas rack?
This is like an overlook or a veranda
fridge



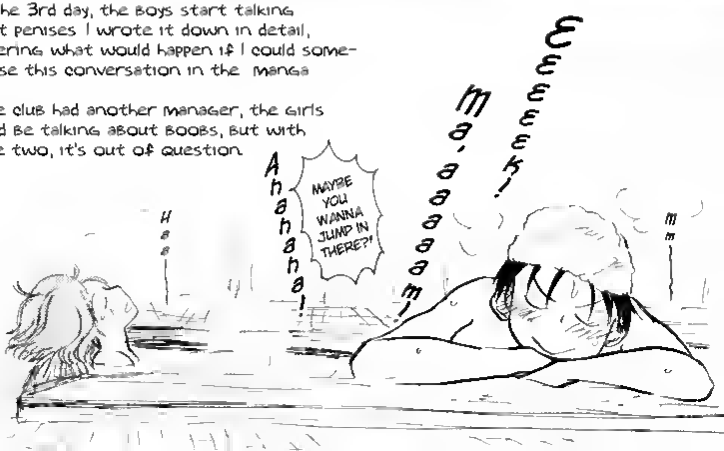
This boarding house was modeled after a real private house. The actual building is probably going to be torn down soon. And it was such a lovely house, too! At the moment, it's being used by people volunteering to help the forest. They fill the place with an easy-going atmosphere. When I went there on my own to collect data, they didn't seem to give me much notice.

The forest was mentioned in the manga in this line.


3
Public Bath at the Training Camp
You can get in after washing your head, face, arms, and legs
Pour some water over here, too!
Tajima!
In front of the boarding house

On the 3rd day, the boys start talking about penises I wrote it down in detail, pondering what would happen if I could someday use this conversation in the manga

If the club had another manager, the girls would be talking about boobs, but with these two, it's out of question



However, when the manager accidentally sees Momokan's bra, she can't help feeling surprised

④

New Rivals

These guys attend a Christian school that integrates middle and high school level education. The trio has been sticking together since their middle school days

His mother is half-Japanese and half-European (and a mix of many different bloods at that), so in the racial sense, Riou is more or less a quarter Japanese

Riou was named after Rio de Janeiro, the birthplace of his father (a Brazilian of Japanese descent). His older brother, Roka, who also appears in the story, was named after Cabo da Roca, the westernmost point of mainland Europe. Their parents had gone there on their honeymoon and fallen in love with the place

Aoi's birthday is June 30
Ryou was born after the date had changed, his birthday is July 1
There are twins among the rivals, too
Both of their names were taken from the lunar calendar and are common among children born in summer
SHIBA
AOI
RYOU
as well as mysterious cheerleaders
Naturally, there are also many mysterious rivals,
Their faces remain unknown.
THE PANDA TEAM:
Those guys who have kept their middle school undershirts are still using them. so you can see both panda-like and pitch black ones.
I wonder how far I can get with this manga?
Nishiura recommends the second pattern, so eventually everyone on the team will have to wear plain black undershirts

Planning part two
The Birth of Oofuri

I was born in Saitama, in the town of Reds
There are also the Ardija The windows of all houses are hung with team banners

Baseball is not particularly popular there, so my first encounter with that sport was via Dokaben

I loved the series so much that in elementary school, I knew 48 volumes worth of game data by heart, up to the ball count

In middle school and high school I was a member of the softball club It was a lot of fun, even when we were simply idling around

I forgot most of that when I was in high school

When I was in high school, a local school won the right to represent Saitama in the Summer Koushien.

The media treated those boys as a "refreshing sensation" in the tournament How should I put it The excitement I felt while watching that team laid the foundations for the first sketch of Oofuri!

I thought it would be great if I could draw that story someday, if I could let the glittering emotions bottled up in my chest out in a long cry

And so I continued to collect material on high school baseball like a fool for over 10 years.

Now I'm working with an editor who has so little idea about the sport that they find it difficult to believe the characters are really Japanese boys,

↑

which is surprisingly helpful - sometimes they have to tear the blinkers off my eyes.

It was radically different from the final version, though.

Mihashi was an alien-like boy that never spoke, there was no Momokan, Kanou or Haruna, and Akimaru played the leading role.

And so I'm really drawing a baseball manga

About a year before the serialization of Oofuri began,
I had dung to the baseball club in my old school

Cooperating with the parents' association
allows me to continue researching (such a nice term)
high school baseball, which is now right in front of me.

The days of gazing and yearning after that world can't
compare to the emotions I've discovered thanks to this club

Watching everyone working hard and doing their best,
I've come to love high school baseball even more.

I want to carry on drawing this manga so much!

Uh, what I just wrote sounds like a bad English translation

Why does
this suddenly sound
like a conclusion ?

However, everything
that has a beginning
will eventually come
to an end

I too will give my best
so that this manga
can go on, if only
for a while.

I hope that all of you
who have allowed me
to come this far
will stay with me
and continue
following
Oofuri

Moving on,
a few words about Abe's name

Originally, his full name was
supposed to be "Abe Shinnosuke"

One day, a few years after I had
drafted the first version of Oofuri,
I was watching a relay of high school
baseball games, when one detail caught
my eye. Wasn't one of the players named
Abe Shinnosuke?

His given name was written with different kanji,
but more importantly, he was also a catcher!
I was so exited I immediately called my mother
"Mom, someone with the same name as one of my
characters is playing the same position!"

There's still some space left so let's fill it with Mihoshi starting members

(☆ = graduate of Mihoshi Middle school)

He also became a man of towns and walls. If you look at the kanji radicals

If that boy were to become the starting catcher of YoXXuri GXXXts

That's how Abe became Takaya-kun. Now I'm glad I changed it back then

That's not true! I was just talking to her normally! High school students are so pure~~~

Lastly, words I've heard from a manager who graduated last year, because they left an extremely deep impression

High school students are... they are... SPARKLING

I want to hold on to this feeling while drawing the manga

Thank you for keeping me company throughout the entire story!

Having said that...

GO ⇦

On to the "Basic of Basics"!

An omake of the omake

A plan to help Mihashi overcome his fear of dogs

There, try to stroke her!

I'm holding her still!

It's okay, it's okay!

Momokan's Ai-chan is female. She looks like a cross-breed between a corgi and a shiba inu.

Although he's afraid of dogs, Mihashi doesn't mind cockroaches (though he wouldn't touch one.) If you startle him, he receives a shock. Could it be, the same species?! ...

SUMMER...

HOWEVER,
I WAS DRAWN BACK AFTER LOSING 6 POINTS IN 2 INNINGS.
AS I WAS WATCHING THE FIRST YEAR RELIEF PITCHER,

WHILE THE STRONGEST TEAMS IN JAPAN ARE COMPETING AT THE KOUSHIEN STADIUM,
NEWCOMER TOURNAMENTS ARE ORGANIZED LOCALLY IN EVERY REGION.
AS A SECOND YEAR I HAD BECOME THE ACE ON THE NEW TEAM.

STRIKE OUT!
I DIDN'T FEEL LIKE PLAYING BASEBALL ANYMORE.
KAGU-YAMA-KUN!
YOU DIDN'T GO BACK WITH EVERYONE ELSE?
The Basic of Basics
基本のキホン!

AH, SUZUNE.
YOU'RE STILL HERE?
MIYASHITA-SENPAI!
YOU TIDY UP AFTER CLUB ACTIVITIES EVERY DAY, DON'T YOU?

EH
DID YOU JUST SAY MY SMILE IS CUTE?
THAT'S WHAT SHE'S REALLY LIKE

HUH?
...

YOU TOO, TRAINING ALONE AGAIN?
REMARKABLE AS ALWAYS
UM...
Sweet smile
DON'T BE FOOLED BY THE SWEET SMILE KID!

AH
YOU'RE GOING TO TRAIN ON YOUR OWN, TOO?
Suits
Doesn't mind →
I GUESS...
LET'S GO

...?
Hey We're going!
Yes!

AH— SURE
DO YOUR BEST
PLEASE EXCUSE ME!
YES!

Limp...
click
click
YEAH
MORE OR LESS
OH— DONE ALREADY?
wipe
click
Leg extension 10 x 5
click click click click click click
I'M LEAVING
AH ME TOO
I'LL LEAVE CLOSING THE DOOR TO YOU
shudder
NO COMPASSION
—DO YOU
TRAIN LIKE THIS EVERYDAY?
WHY DID I END UP DOING SOMETHING LIKE THIS INSTEAD OF GOING OUT TO EAT WITH EVERYONE?
IT'S GONNA BE BAD IF I START FEELING NAUSEATED ON THE WAY BACK.
SURE
click

IF YOU FEEL LIKE GIVING UP, I'LL TELL YOU ONE THING
!
YOU'RE TOO LAID-BACK.
YEARLY
YOU MUST APPROACH THE TRAINING CYCLE FROM A YEARLY PERSPECTIVE.
Click
Open
beep
DON'T COPY ME.
YOU SHOULD FOLLOW YOUR OWN TRAINING PROGRAM.
AH
N-NO
ANY-THING WRONG WITH THAT?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN
IN SUMMER, I ONLY FOCUS ON STRENGTH PRESERVATION ANYWAY.
sfx: clank
TELL ME WHAT?
OH
MILK AND PROTEINS?
DID OOKAWA-SENPAI TELL YOU SOMETHING?
AH
shake
shake
IT'S JUST THAT YOU'RE DIFFERENT FROM THE REST OF US.
LATELY, OOKAWA ALSO...
sfx: swish

YES!
AH.
First years
AKIMARU WILL TEAM UP WITH KAGUYAN.
YOU MEAN THIS AFTERNOON...?
HARUNA,
STARTING TODAY, YOUR PRACTICE PARTNER IS MACHIDA
I'M GOING TO BE THE ACE STARTING THIS AUTUMN?
...
BUT I WON'T THROW MORE THAN 80 PITCHES IN ONE DAY
OOKAWA, YOU SHUT UP FOR A MOMENT.
HA, HA, HA, NO WAY. WE'RE JUST USING WHAT WE HAVE...
WE'LL BE THE ONES TEAMING UP. THAT'S ALL.
IN REGULAR GAMES,
FINE BY ME.
SFX THUD
STOP

...UGH.
FINE! DON'T PITCH AT ALL THEN!
YOU DECIDED YOUR OWN LIMIT?!?!
YOU'D BETTER...
OO-KAWA !!
ACTUALLY, I WON'T LET YOU PITCH!
SFX: cough cough
IT JUST SHOWS YOU'RE A BAD LEADER!
DON'T KICK A FIRST YEAR!
SERI-OUSLY?
LET'S GET YOU A BANDAGE!
MIGHTVE...
OW...
TWISTED MY ANKLE...
A LITTLE...
Even the people who were trying to stop him...
SHOCKED...

YOU'RE GONNA PITCH!
M
GOOD FOR YOU?
WELL, THAT'S...
HOLD ON!
CAN YOU MAKE IT TO THE BENCH?
SHUT UP!
EH?
KAGU-YAN!
...
OUR MANAGER IS PRETTY STRONG.
DON'T GO INJURING HIM!
SWIP
SWIP
SWIP
...THAT BIG OF A DEAL.
IT'S NOT ...

HUH...
HOW WOULD WORKING OUT YOUR BACK HURT YOUR BALLS?
I SAID MY "HIP"!!
IT DID HURT THOUGH
ABOUT EXERCISING YOUR BACK MUSCLES?
OH YEAH, YOU TWO FOUGHT ON THE FIRST DAY TOO
HIS WAY OF DOING STUFF IS BAD FOR MY HIP.
WE JUST DON'T GET ALONG
OH...
LIKE GETTING TALLER AND STUFF...
GROW-ING?
WELL,
I STOPPED IN MIDDLE SCHOOL
THAT'S
SO...
THAT 80 PITCHES THING
IT WAS YOUR LIMIT IN JUNIOR HIGH, RIGHT?
I DON'T WANNA OVERDO IT WHILE I'M STILL GROWING
YOU GREW LIKE 5 CM IN HALF A YEAR!
I KNOW YOU ARE!
NO!
OH!
I'M STILL GETTING TALLER

WELL, IT'LL PROBABLY WORK OUT.
IF YOU JUST EXPLAIN IT THAT WAY.
EH?
HOW DID YOU...
AHAH
HA
CHART: BEGINNING OF THE YEAR
170 CM
170 CM
PRESENT
170 CM
175 CM
OH
Rubb Sh Hn
ANYWAY, NOBODY IS LENIENT ENOUGH TO BE FINE WITH THAT WITHOUT BEING GIVEN A REASON.....
SENPAI,
WITHOUT GIVING A REASON...
...

.....

WHAT'S WITH YOU?!

I'M NOT GOING TO GET TALLER
OR STRONGER
I'M...

QUITTING THE TEAM

BEEP
BEEP BEEP
BEEP
HMM
I'M NOT LOSING ANY WEIGHT
BEEP BEEP BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
ALL THE GUYS HAVE BEEN LOOKING SO WORN OUT...
EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE EATING A LOT.
ooh, cold
THEY'RE REALLY EXERCISING TOO MUCH.

BUT I GUESS THAT'S . . . . PRETTY COOL.
RESTAURANT
CUSTO
ring ring
...HELLO?
HEY! WHERE ARE YOU?
CUSTO.
YOU'RE STILL AT CUSTO?!

HE DIDN'T COME.
SIGH
DO YOU . . . THINK HE UNDER-STANDS?
I HAD TO TALK TO THE TEAM ABOUT STUFF!
WHERE'D THEY GO?
THEY WENT HOME JUST NOW.
he he he he
WHAT ABOUT KAGU-YAMA-KUN?
The household all was sitting around in just underwear
WELL, HE SAID HE DID...
I SEE.
I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU MORE ABOUT TODAY...
BY THE WAY,
UH,
AHH, SHE'S GOING TO BE ANGRY AGAIN...
OK.
HOW ABOUT I MEET YOU AT THE BACK GATE?
OKAY
. . . WH-

OH, YOU CAN TELL?
NO WAY!
... I HURT MY ELBOW ...
WHY!?
WHICH ONE?
IT'S A LIE.
GUMP
UH, NO, I'M NOT.
YOU'RE REALLY LYING?

I WON'T THROW MORE THAN 80 PITCHES.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING, BUT
BE HONEST ALREADY!
ER, I'M AFRAID TO GET ON THE MOUND.
HMM...?

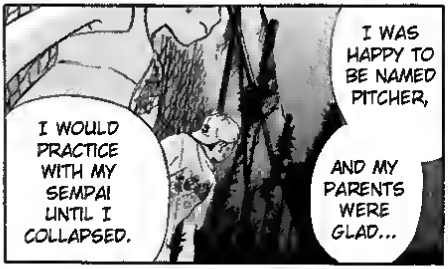
I DON'T WANT TO BE THE PITCHER ANYMORE.
HUH?
I DON'T WANT TO PLAY ON THE TEAM.
I'LL QUIT, GET A JOB, AND GO TO CRAM SCHOOL!
DON'T WORRY
IF IT'S JUST MAKING UP FOR THE REST OF THE GAME, OOKAWA CAN DO IT.
AREN'T YOU THE PITCHER?!
WHAT'RE YOU SAYING?!
I WAS CRAZY FOR PLAYING THIS WHOLE TIME!
I QUIT BASEBALL ALREADY!!
...!!
I'M TIRED OF IT ALL!

OH, OOKA-
I'm in a bad situation!
Send
chk
HA?
I'm here!
ring ring ringggg
SHOCK
MRRPH?!
GRAB
LUNGE
SHH!!
MMPH
NNH!
QUIET!
WE CAN'T BE HEARD HERE!

S-S-SORRY!
yank
I COULDN'T BREATHE!

OWWWWWWW!!
CHOMP

GEEZ...
BLOOP
BLOOP
SHE DIDN'T HAVE ANY TEETH!


I WAS HAPPY TO BE NAMED PITCHER,
AND MY PARENTS WERE GLAD...
I WOULD PRACTICE WITH MY SEMPAI UNTIL I COLLAPSED.

I DON'T THINK I
WAS SLACKING OFF ANY.....

BUT DON'T YOU THINK YOU COULD'VE TRIED HARDER?
YOU COULD PROBABLY GET A LOT FASTER...

AND THERE ISN'T MUCH OF A WORKOUT MENU...
NO MATTER WHAT WE DO, WHEN YOU'RE DONE GROWING, YOU'LL JUST PITCH ALL OF IT.
BESIDES, IF I WERE THE TYPE TO MAKE MY OWN WORK-OUT MENU,
I WOULD NOT HAVE COME TO THIS SCHOOL.

WHAT . . . ?!
ISN'T THE LEVEL OF THIS TEAM REALLY OBVIOUS?
I'M GLAD I USED BUG SPRAY

IF YOU'RE A TEAM AT THE BOTTOM OF THE DIVISION LIKE WE ARE BOTTOM-LEVEL PLAYERS WILL GATHER THERE!
WE WERE ALL BENCH-WARMERS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL!
DO YOU GET IT NOW ?!

THAT CAN'T BE TRUE.
...
THE ONLY PLAYERS HERE ARE ONES WHO ARE PREPARED TO LOSE ALL OF THEIR GAMES!
YOU
...
STAND OUT TOO MUCH.
WHY DID YOU COME HERE?
IF YOU WANT TO GO TO KOUSHIEN, JUST GO TO A BETTER SCHOOL!
IF YOU STAY HERE, AT LEAST PRACTICE LIKE EVERYONE ELSE DOES SO YOU WON'T STAND OUT...
IS THERE EVEN A REASON YOU'RE ON THE TEAM?
WHY DON'T YOU JUST TRAIN ON YOUR OWN?

BUT THERE ARE STILL BATTERS AND CATCHERS ON THIS TEAM...
AND YOU CAN USE THE GROUNDS EVERY DAY
AND PLAY IN GAMES ...
SO GO AHEAD AND STAY.
BUT I QUIT.

I'VE NEVER EVEN WON IN AN OFFICIAL GAME!
THAT HURTS ...
SERIOUSLY?!
IDIOT ...
BEFORE WE'VE EVEN DECIDED THE POSITIONS OR PLAYED A GAME?
WHY ARE YOU ASSUMING THAT-
I'M NOT ASSUMING!
BUT I ...
IF YOU'RE ON A WEAK TEAM, IT'S NOT THAT RARE.
THIS TEAM HASN'T EVEN WON IN ABOUT 3 YEARS
YOU KNOW, HALF THE TEAMS LOSE IN THE FIRST ROUND.
WHOOPS!
WHEN PEOPLE LIKE US START AIMING TO WIN ..
IT'S KIND OF EMBAR-RASSING.

UHHH, IT'S KIND OF LIKE WHEN YOU GET EMBARRASSED BUYING A FASHION MAGAZINE
EH?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
EM... WHAT? EMBAR-RASS-ING?
WELL, HARUNA, IT SEEMS YOU'RE FINE WITH WANTING TO WIN, EVEN HERE.
WHAT'S YOUR DEFINITE GOAL, ANYWAY?
YOU DON'T GET IT, DO YOU.
EVEN GROWING OUT YOUR HAIR WHILE ALL YOUR SEMPAI SHAVE THEIR HEADS
OH, THAT'S...
LIKE, "WHAT'RE YOU BUYING THAT FOR, YOU SHRIMP!" OR SOME-THING
YOU KNOW!
? ? ?
AH, DON'T MAKE ME EXPLAIN IT.
I'LL JUST GET EXPRESSED!
I UNDER-STAND!
!!
ACTU-ALLY.
THE PROS,

...IT MUST BE NICE TO DECIDE ON SOMETHING TO DEDICATE YOUR LIFE TO,
JUST LIKE THAT, RIGHT?
.....
Meant to ask what round in the tourna-ment
BUT...
ISN'T THAT...
KIND OF FRIGHT-ENING?
BUT YOU STILL CAN'T DO IT, WOULDN'T YOU BE CRUSHED BY THE SHOCK OF THAT?
WHAT IS?
IF YOU GIVE IT EVERY-THING YOU'VE GOT,

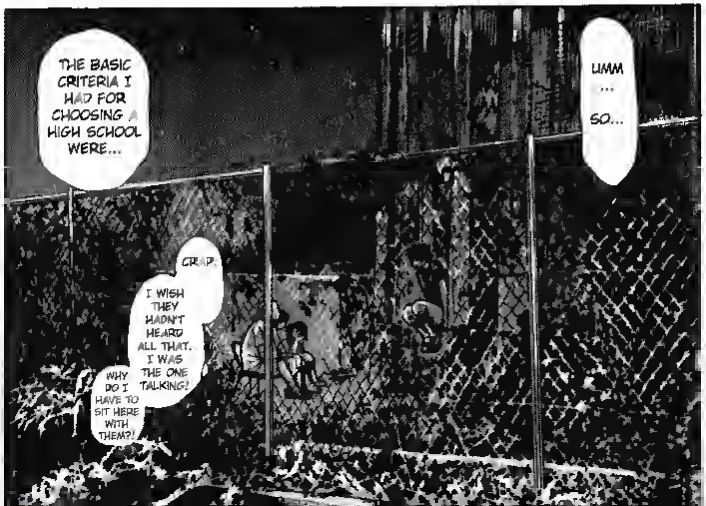
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS ASSHOLE!!
WHEN YOU'VE GOT TALENT, THE WORLD MUST SEEM DIFFERENT.
THIS
YOU MUST THINK IT'S DESTINY, THAT YOU'VE GOT TALENT.
EVEN THOUGH HE SAW MY EFFORTS EARLIER
WHY IS HE GOING ON ABOUT TALENT AND DESTINY?!
DOESN'T HE GET THAT BEING AFRAID OF BREAKING DOWN IS JUST AN EXCUSE FOR NOT DOING ANYTHING?!

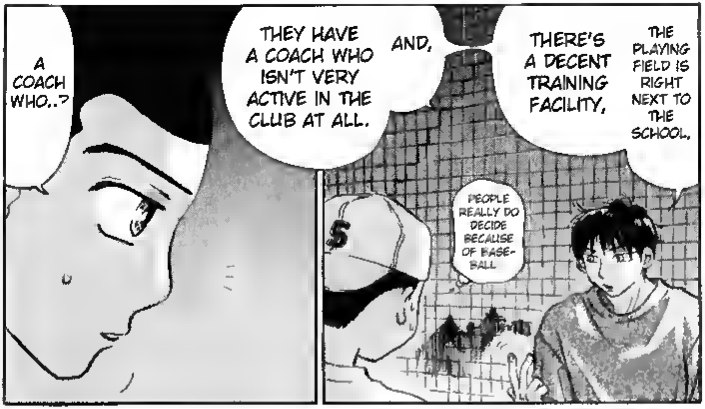
COULD IT BE
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME HE'S THOUGHT ABOUT QUITTING?!
.....!!
.....
THAT'S RIGHT.
RIGHT NOW, HE'S HAVING HIS DOUBTS FOR THE FIRST TIME.
IN MY 2ND YEAR OF JUNIOR HIGH
JUST LIKE ME
HUH?
WHAT?!
DON'T TELL ANYONE WHAT I'M ABOUT TO TELL YOU, OKAY?

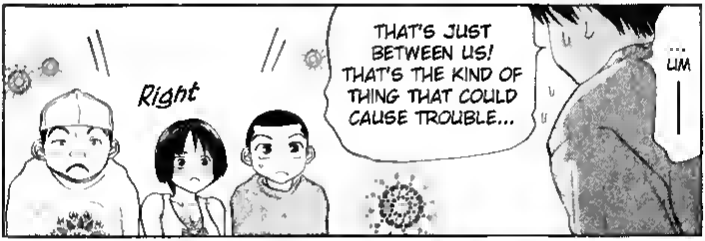
STOP RIGHT THERE FOR A SEC!
WHAT THE!!!
THE REA-SON
.....!!
I CHO-SE
THIS SCH-OOL IS...
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?!!
WHAT?!
UH
GOOD EVEN-ING
WH-WHERE ...?!
D-DID YOU ...?!

BUT STILL, I ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW WHY YOU CAME HERE.
AT FIRST I THOUGHT IT WAS SOMETHING THAT SHOULDN'T BE BROUGHT UP, BUT...
WHEN YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT THE LEVEL OF THE TEAM?
LET'S SEE
LONG HAVE YOU
H-HOW
DON'T SCREW WITH ME LIKE THAT !!
ACTU-ALLY, UH..
HOW COULD YOU?!
GEEZ,
I DON'T WANT TO ANSWER ANY-MORE!
WHA-
IS IT OKAY TO ASK?
わな
わな
わな
UH..
SO, UM...
BUT WE'LL MAKE UP FOR IT SOMEHOW.
IT'S NOT EVEN ENOUGH TO JUST APOLOGIZE.
NO, WE'RE REALLY SORRY.

badum
NO WAY HE CAN REFUSE A CUTE POSE LIKE THAT,
UH OH.
It's okay?
Kyaaa
SURE, IT'S NOT REALLY THAT BIG A DEAL.
I DEFINITELY DON'T GET ALONG WITH HIM.
Hmm
Ooh
dom
startled
I WOULD
ALSO LIKE TO HEAR


THE BASIC CRITERIA I HAD FOR CHOOSING A HIGH SCHOOL WERE...
UMM ... SO...
CRAP.
I WISH THEY HADN'T HEARD ALL THAT. I WAS THE ONE TALKING!
WHY DO I HAVE TO SIT HERE WITH THEM?!

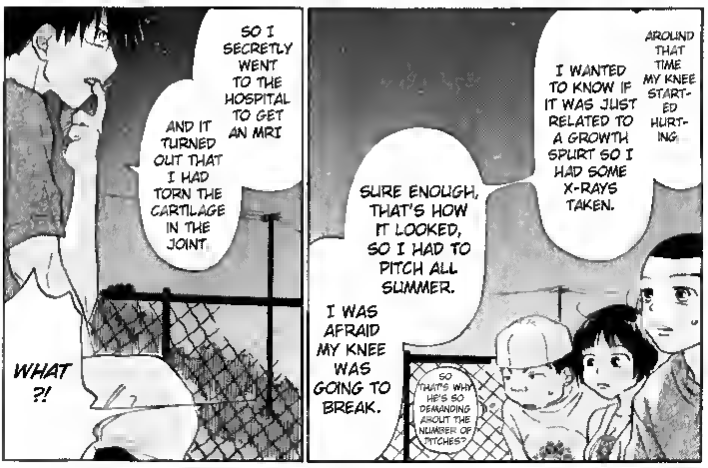

A COACH WHO..?
THEY HAVE A COACH WHO ISN'T VERY ACTIVE IN THE CLUB AT ALL.
AND,
THERE'S A DECENT TRAINING FACILITY,
THE PLAYING FIELD IS RIGHT NEXT TO THE SCHOOL.
PEOPLE REALLY DO DECIDE BECAUSE OF BASE-BALL


Right
THAT'S JUST BETWEEN US! THAT'S THE KIND OF THING THAT COULD CAUSE TROUBLE...
...UM

I HATED THAT GUY FROM THE BEGINNING.
HE'S BRAG-GING?
HE DIDN'T EVEN TEACH ME ANYTHING ABOUT BASEBALL!
AND I REALLY STOOD OUT.
IN JUNIOR HIGH I WAS LIKE THE COACH'S FAVORITE...

HE HAD ALL KINDS OF COMPLAINTS ABOUT HOW I LIVED.
"YOU'RE TOO LOUD!"
OR
"WASH YOUR SHOES! FOLD YOUR SHIRTS AFTER TAKING THEM OFF!"
OR TELLING ME MY BAG IS MESSY. BUT YOU CAN'T TELL IF THE ZIPPER'S CLOSED,
RIGHT!?
YOU SHOULD WASH THEM
YOU SHOULD FOLD THEM
THAT'S RATHER AMUSING—

THAT GUY...
SEVERLY OVERUSED ME.

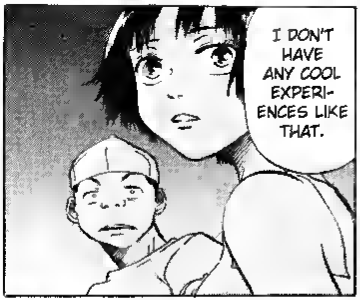

AROUND THAT TIME MY KNEE STARTED HURTING.
I WANTED TO KNOW IF IT WAS JUST RELATED TO A GROWTH SPURT SO I HAD SOME X-RAYS TAKEN.
SURE ENOUGH, THAT'S HOW IT LOOKED, SO I HAD TO PITCH ALL SUMMER.
I WAS AFRAID MY KNEE WAS GOING TO BREAK.
SO THAT'S WHY HE'S SO DEMANDING ABOUT THE NUMBER OF PITCHES?
SO I SECRETLY WENT TO THE HOSPITAL TO GET AN MRI
AND IT TURNED OUT THAT I HAD TORN THE CARTILAGE IN THE JOINT.
WHAT?!

AFTER THAT,
HE FINALLY LEFT ME ALONE.
IT FULLY HEALED AFTER TWO MONTHS, BUT...
THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD DO, SO I WENT TO SPORTS REHAB BY MYSELF
EVEN WHEN THE OTHER PITCHERS SAID THEIR SHOULDERS HURT,
HE ALWAYS IGNORED THEM ..
WELL, MY PARENTS CAME TO HELP OUT TOO.

I ALSO PLANNED ON QUITTING BASEBALL.
THAT'S HOW BAD IT WAS, BUT ABOUT THAT TIME,
THE GUYS FROM THE BASBALL CLUB TOLD ME
I HAD THE MOST ROTTEN ATTITUDE BACK THEN

I SHOULD GO PLAY IN THE LITTLE SENIORS.
... THEY ASKED ME IF I REALLY WANTED TO QUIT BASE-BALL.

I PROB-ABLY
FEEL TOO STRONGLY ABOUT PLAYING ON A SCHOOL CLUB
LITTLE SENIORS GAVE ME SOME AMAZING PLAYING EXPERI-ENCE, BUT ...
THAT WAS THE ONE, EH
OH, AND THAT'S THE LITTLE SENIORS TEAM YOU WERE ON
IT'S GOOD EXPERI-ENCE.
!
THAT'S WHY I STOOD OUT...
THEN ! !
I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT I...


I DON'T HAVE ANY COOL EXPERI-ENCES LIKE THAT.

DURING THAT PAINFUL TIME
REMEM-BERING THE WORDS OF YOUR TEAM-MATES
HELPED YOU TO OVER-COME IT.

YOUR STORY JUST SOUNDS LIKE BRAGGING TO ME.

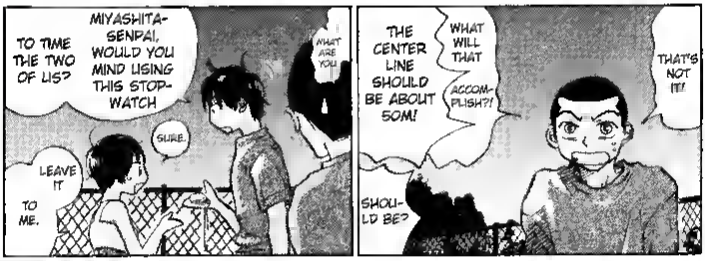
...W-
カグヤ
WAIT A MINUTE, KAGUYAN!

DO YOU THINK IT IS ONLY BECAUSE OF FOND MEMORIES THAT THIS GUY IS ABLE TO STAY BEHIND ALL BY HIMSELF EVERY DAY?!
OR BECAUSE HE HAS TALENT?!
EVEN IF THAT'S PART OF IT!!

YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO RESIGN YOURSELF TO DEFEAT,
I DON'T HAVE ANY OF THAT EITHER!

BUT NOT ME!!
IF YOU KNOW, JUST SAY SO!
WELL, UM...
WOULD YOU HAPPEN TO KNOW, MANAGER?
UM
KAGU-YAMA -SENPAI
HOW FAST IS YOUR SOM TIME?
I THINK IT'S
75 SEC-ONDS
DON'T SAY IT!!
IT'S SO SLOW!
OHH, SAME AS ME
WHA
LET'S HAVE A RACE.

OUR TIMES ARE SIMILAR, SO ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE.
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT!
UNLESS YOU'RE TOO ASHAMED TO TRY AND WIN!
WHAT FOR?


MIYASHITA-SENPAI, WOULD YOU MIND USING THIS STOPWATCH TO TIME THE TWO OF US?
SURE.
WHAT ARE YOU
LEAVE IT TO ME.
THE CENTER LINE SHOULD BE ABOUT 50M!
WHAT WILL THAT ACCOMPLISH?!
SHOULD BE?
THAT'S NOT IT!

WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER
... DO THIS
HMM?

THE LAST SOM WE MEASURED WAS FROM SPRING, WASN'T IT?
SO YOU SHOULD BE FASTER NOW.
...ABOUT 3KG?
YEAH ...?

OK
GOOD LUCK!
CUTE
SFX: HEART BEATS

HOW MUCH WEIGHT HAVE YOU LOST?
WHUT
KA-GU-YAMA-KUN

BUT HE'S ALSO ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO HATE TO LOSE.
WHOA.
Intense Preparation
ha hoo ha
SFX: RUNNING SOUNDS

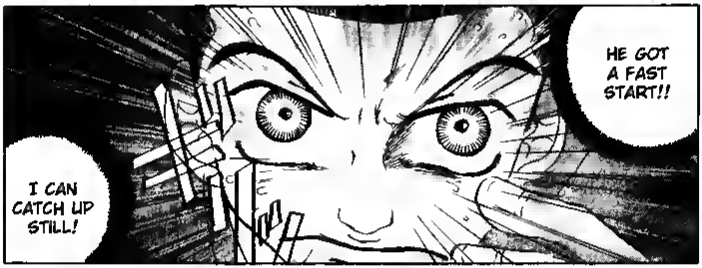
HARUNA'S TAKING THIS SERI-OUSLY.
EH?

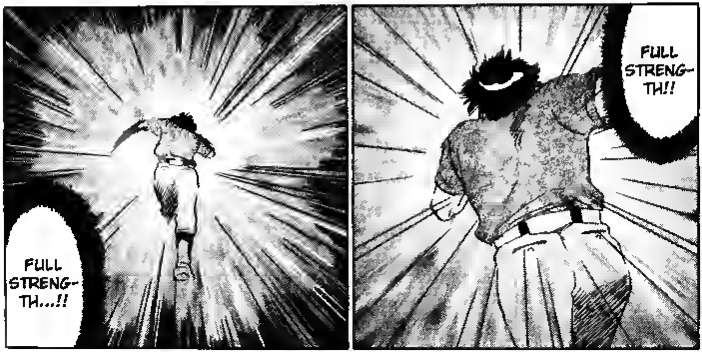
CAN I...
BEAT HIM!?
Give it your all!
IF I GO FULL STRENGTH .....
GOT IT!
I'LL SAY "READY, GO!"
LIKE THIS!
WHEN I LOWER MY HAND, START THE TIME!
RIGHT! LET'S DO THIS!

STARTING POSITIONS!
READY ...
GO!

NO WAY!
HOW!?

sfx: dash


HE GOT A FAST START!!
I CAN CATCH UP STILL!


FULL STRENG-TH!!
FULL STRENG-TH...!!

DAMN!
KAGU-YAMA-KUN, 6.8 S.
HUH?
THAT WAS CLOSE
THEN WHAT WAS HARU-NA'S TIME?!
6 2 S.
NO WAY!
HOW COULD IT GET SO MUCH BETTER?!
ACTU-ALLY.
the stopper must be broken!

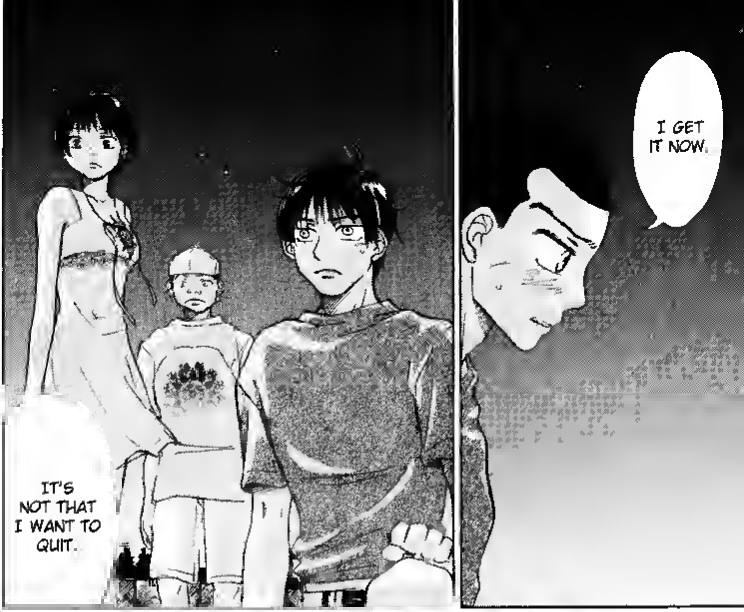
HE TOLD ME TO LIE ABOUT THE WEIGHT, TOO...
AND THEN...
HARUNA'S TIME
HAD BEEN BELOW 65S FROM THE BEGINNING...
HUH?!
HE LIED BECAUSE HE WAS AIMING FOR THE PLACEBO EFFECT...
YOUR TIME...
BECAME REALLY GOOD.
...HUH?
YOU... YOU DIDN'T EVEN KNOW...
...YOUR OWN TIME IN A 50 M DASH
DO YOU GET IT NOW?!

SENPAI,

DO YOU REALLY WANT ...
...TO QUIT BASE-BALL?

THROW-
ING,
HITTING,
RUNNING,
FORMING
A CIRCLE,
REFLECTING
ON A GAME,
CLEANING
THE SPIKES.
WORRYING
ABOUT THE
SHAPE OF
THE CAP.

FIGHTING
OVER THE
CHOICE OF
BATS,
WATCHING HUNDREDS OF
COCKROACHES IN THE CLUBROOM
RUNNING AROUND IN LONG
SLEEVES AND TROUSERS IN
SPITE OF THE SUMMER HEAT AND
CONSTANTLY SPITTING LIKE A
WATER FOUNTAIN
I
GET IT.

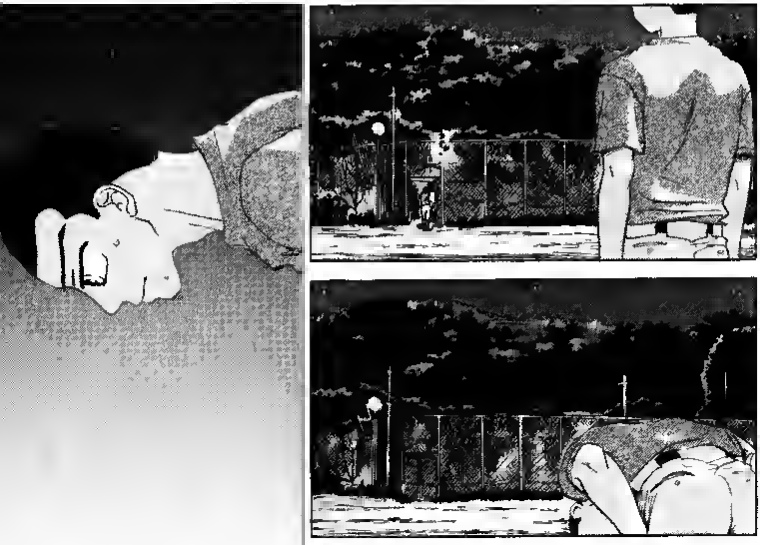

I GET IT NOW.
IT'S NOT THAT I WANT TO QUIT.

I WANT...
...TO WIN!

WHY WOULD YOU CONTINUE WORKING SO HARD WHEN YOU'VE NEVER EVEN WON?
...MY POINT IS...
YOU ACTUALLY LOVE BASEBALL!
...UH.
I'LL TAKE YOU HOME.
SORRY.
OH, DAMN!
UM
AH.
HEY, SUZUNE. ARE YOU CHECKING THE TIME?
WHY DID IT SUDDENLY BECOME SO AWKWARD
...
GET IT NOW?

SAME SORRY FOR DISTURBING YOU WHEN YOU'RE ON A DATE
WE'RE REALLY SORRY ABOUT TODAY.
SEE YOU!
KAGUYAN! YOU'RE COMING TOMORROW!
...
YOU DIDN'T KNOW?
HUH?!
HUH?
HUH?
AH
THEY'RE DATING
...
WHAT IF WORD OF SOMEONE'S UNREQUITED LOVE ACCIDENTALLY SLIPS OFF MY TONGUE?
ビクッ
...
THAT'S IT!
LOOK WHO'S EMBARRASSED NOW!
EVERYONE'S GOING TO LAUGH
UWAH

ALL RIGHT
SHOULD WE HEAD BACK TOO?
AH I FORGOT TO WASH MY FACE AND HANDS
YOU GO FIRST
...IS THAT SO?
OKAY THEN
SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW.
YEAH

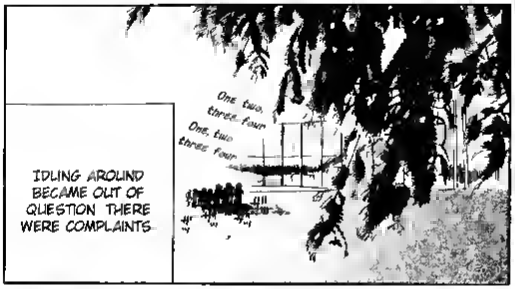


EVEN IF I'M EMBAR-RASSED,
I'LL DO MY BEST.
WITHOUT HOLDING BACK.
WITH ALL MY MIGHT.

I'LL AIM ...
FOR THE VICTORY!

LET'S SEE
LIKE THIS?
APPARENTLY, OOKAWA FELT THE SAME.
ON THE VERY NEXT DAY, HE OPPRESSIVELY INCREASED THE AMOUNT OF PRACTICE.

NO SLOWING DOWN!
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE RUNNING!


One, two, three, four
One, two, three, four
IDLING AROUND BECAME OUT OF QUESTION. THERE WERE COMPLAINTS.

BUT SUZUNE SMARTLY FOLLOWED UP.
WE'RE WEARING OUT THE BALLS MUCH FASTER THAN WE USED TO.
THE PARENTS ASSOCIATION WILL HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF THAT.
AND ACTUALLY, IT LOOKED LIKE HARUNA STAYING BEHIND TO TRAIN ON HIS OWN MOTIVATED EVERYONE.

AFTER ALL...
ALL OF THESE GUYS HAD BEEN PLAYING BASEBALL ALL THE WAY UNTIL HIGH SCHOOL...
Autumn Tournament
Parking places
#9, RIGHT FIELD, HARUNA!
YES!
#8, PITCHER, KAGU-YAMA!
YES!

EVEN IF WE LOSE, I WON'T BREAK ...
FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART ...
I WANT TO WIN!

ALRIGHT! FORM A CIRCLE!
THE FIRST GAME ENDED IN 5 INNINGS!
I'M NOT AFRAID TO AIM FOR VICTORY ANYMORE.
ROGER!
KAGUYAN, GO ALL OUT UNTIL THE 3RD INNING!
ROGER!
HARUNA! AFTER THAT IT'S YOUR TURN!
LET'S WIN THIS!

The taste of victory was almost unbearable